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Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Jordan Cancels Israeli Delegation's Entry

TA1407182094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Jordan cancelled the entry of the Israeli preparatory delegation into its territory at the last minute this morning. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that it was agreed in the 'Arava yesterday that the Israeli coordinating delegation, headed by Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Eytan Bentzur, would cross the Allenby Bridge this morning to examine the meeting site for the two countries' foreign ministers, but when the planned visit was publicized ahead of time the deliberations were cancelled. [passage omitted]

Jordanian Teams to Talks With Israel Named

JN1507104594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Jul 94 pp 1, 27

[Report by Caroline Faraj]

[Excerpts] The Jordanian-Israeli bilateral talks will begin on Monday [18 July] in the Jordanian-Israeli border area, 13 km north of al-'Aqabah. These talks will take place in implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda signed in Washington on 14 September 1993.

On 20 July, eyes will be directed toward the Dead Sea Hotel to the trilateral meeting among Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in his capacity as foreign minister, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

In preparation for these two events, the Jordanian side, including members of the official delegation, experts, and support teams, continue their intensive meetings in all the ministries and official institutions. Moreover, the Jordanian Armed Forces are finalizing preparations at the site of the meeting in Wadi al-'Arabah.

A Jordanian-Israeli preparatory team is scheduled to meet at that location for the second time on Sunday [17 July] to discuss final procedural issues dealing with negotiations, reporters, and other issues.

A preliminary meeting was held at the site on 13 July. It was attended on the Jordanian side by Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, member of and official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation, and 'Umar al-Rifa'i, member of the delegation. It was attended on the Israeli side by Eytan Bentzur, member of the Israeli delegation, and about 20 administrators. [passage omitted]

In another development, the Council of Ministers decided to form the Jordanian delegation to the Jordanian-Israeli bilateral meetings as follows:

Chairman: Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, Jordan's ambassador to the United States.

Members: Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan; Dr. Mundhir Haddadin; Dr. Ibrahim Badran; Dr. Durayd Mahasinah; Major General Tahsin Shurdum; Major General 'Abd-al-'Ilah al-Kurdi; international law adviser 'Awn al-Khasawinah; Spokesperson Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir; 'Umar al-Rifa'i; and Dr. Ghassan al-Jundi.

The water, environment, and energy working group is headed by Dr. Mundhir Haddadin. Members of the delegation are Dr. Ibrahim Badran; Dr. Durayd Mahasinah; Muhammad Zafir al-'Alim; Dr. Hazim al-Nasir; Engineer Sa'ud al-Zuhayr; Engineer Muhammad 'Azzam; Engineer Hassan al-Sakit; and Dr. Yusuf 'Atari.

The security working group is headed by Dr. 'Abdallah Tuqan. Members of the delegation are Major General Tahsin Shurdum; Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-'Ilah al-Kurdi; Staff Colonel Makram al-Tall; 'Ali al- Fayiz; Dr. Muhammad 'Ulwan; and Colonel Muhammad 'Ali Sulayman.

The border and territory working group consists of Maj. Gen. Tahsin Shurdum; Brigadier General Mansur Abu-Rashid; Colonel Engineer Salim Khalifah; Engineer Nidal Safarat; Colonel Majid al-Rayhani; Engineer Basil 'Abd-al-Hamid; Dr. Muhammad 'Ulwan; and Colonel Mahmud al-Hadid.

The members of the water, environment, and energy support team, who will be on call in Amman, include Engineer Owadis Sarbakyan, Fawzi Abu-al-Ni'aj, 'Ali al-Ghazzawi, Sinan Khulayfat, Mrs. Amal Hijazi, Dr. Walid 'Abd-Rabbuh, second secretary Janti Falazuqah, and Husam al-'Abdallat.

Members of the border and territory support team, who will be in Amman, include Lieutenant Colonel Isma'il Hamid; Major Husayn 'Awad 'Amir; 1st Lieutenant Jasir 'Atiyah; 1st Lieutenant Husayn al-Mumani; Saqr al-Habashinah; Fawwaz al-Rudaysat; Engineer Maddallah Musallam; Engineer Ahmad al-'Udwan; Zakariya al-Qur'an; second secretary Muhammad al-Nawafilah; and second secretary Ahmad Jaradat. This team will be assisted by Armed Forces advisers, who will be in Amman. These include Badri al-Mulqi; Engineer Ra'fat al-Majali; and Dr. Muhsin al-Shishakli.

The delegation is accompanied by an administrative team, including Dr. Hanna Qaqish, Bashir al-Rawashidah, Muhammad al-'Uran, and a representative from the Finance Ministry.

Sixth Round of Multilateral Talks Ends in Tunisia

TA1407134094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 94 p A3

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] The steering committee to the multilateral talks ended its sixth meeting in Tabarka, Tunisia. The Israeli delegation, headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, will arrive back in Israel this evening.

An announcement published at the conclusion of the talks said that all parties stressed the need to find funding for multilateral projects, "in order to prevent unrealistic expectations."

South Korea, which joined the multilateral framework together with Hungary and Romania, agreed to donate $12 million to finance the holding of the multilateral talks, not specific projects.

The steering committee called on Syria and Lebanon to join the multilateral track. The U.S. and Russian representatives will leave for Damascus and Beirut soon in order to report on the steering committee's talks and on the progress made in the five working groups on water, arms control, environment, economic development, and refugees.

Switzerland proposed establishing a sixth working group on human rights, and the PLO, together with several Arab states, proposed establishing a working group on Jerusalem. Israel rejected these two proposals and they were rejected in the absence of unanimous agreement.

The Palestinians proposed that Tunisia serve as the permanent meeting place for the multilateral steering committee. This proposal was rejected in light of the opposition of Saudi Arabia, which requested time to consider the matter, and Egypt, which claimed that "one must be flexible in fixing the location."

Agreement was reached yesterday on the locations for the next meetings of the multilateral working groups this Autumn: the environment talks will be held in Bahrain at the end of October—another Arab country which has agreed to host an official Israeli delegation for the first time. The arms control talks will be held in Tunisia; the talks on refugees will be held in Turkey; the economic talks in Germany; and the water talks in Greece. The site for the steering committee's next meeting has not been decided.

The steering committee discussed the formulation of a document of principles on regional development as well as a paper setting out a vision for the future of the Middle East. It was decided that the principles of regional development would be discussed at a special interim session in November, so as to present them for endorsement at the next meeting of the steering committee. The interim meeting will be held in Morocco, in conjunction with the international business fair in Marrakech. The timetable for formulating the Middle East vision paper is protracted, and a discussion on a draft version of the paper will only be held in February 1995.

The steering committee held a discussion on the inclusion of new countries. It was decided that the United States and Russia would prepare criteria for the inclusion of new participants in the talks.

In the course of the steering committee talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Beilin held a meeting with American representatives who explained that the United States rejected Israel's position with regard to raising the issue of nuclear waste in the framework of the environment talks. Egypt demands that the issue of nuclear waste be placed on the agenda of the working group on environment issues, while Israel vehemently opposes this out of fear that the debate will move on to include nuclear weapons. The United States is pressuring Israel to agree, and as a compromise, has proposed to chair the discussions on this matter itself.

Al-Tarawinah Comments on Talks

JN1507083894 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The steering committee to the Middle East multilateral talks ended its meetings in Tunis yesterday. Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah, head of the Jordanian delegation to these talks, returned to Amman this evening. He told our political affairs correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab that the multilaterals supplement rather than supplant the bilateral negotiations.

[Begin recording] [Al-Tarawinah] There is still a consensus among all countries that the multilaterals are not an alternative to the bilaterals. The bilaterals are the base. Progress in the bilaterals reflects on the multilaterals in a positive way. Implementation within the multilaterals can only take place if the bilaterals see substantial progress. There is a consensus on this among all countries. Hence, in each steering committee meeting, the cosponsors, who also supervise the bilaterals, present a report dealing with the bilateral negotiations on the four tracks, whether these negotiations are conducted bilaterally or through diplomatic channels. This is something already established. Therefore, we always seek to achieve progress in the bilateral tracks so that the other participating countries, of which there are 40 in the various working groups, as well as international organizations, can take part in extending financial and technical aid in order to put issues into implementation.

We are preparing the grounds until progress is achieved in the bilateral talks and the peace process moves forward, God willing.

[Dhiyab] Dr. al-Tarawinah, were the issues of Jerusalem and refugees discussed in detail or in broad outline or will they be discussed in detail?

[Al-Tarawinah] We as Jordanians, supported by the Arabs, have been demanding the formation of a permanent committee or working group to discuss the issue of Jerusalem. So far, the other party continues to object to this. It is established that the countries of the region should unanimously agree on a particular issue. Naturally, we will not abandon this issue. However, if there is a chance, one way or another, to discuss this issue, we believe that political discussions as well as discussions related to sovereignty and the holy shrines in Jerusalem will take place at the bilaterals. However, the multilaterals can supplement this if we succeed in forming a working group on Jerusalem, God willing.

As for the issue of refugees, there is already a working group dealing with this issue. Discussions are going on, one way or another. However, the political issues and the refugee rights properly belong to the bilateral track of the negotiations. The multilateral negotiations supplement rather than supplant the bilateral negotiations. [end recording]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Information Ministers Issue Recommendations

NC1407151394 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The Arab information ministers concluded their 27th session at the Arab League headquarters today. The session was chaired by Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyid and Egypt's delegation was led by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif.

The Information Ministers Council adopted several resolutions that aim to strengthen joint Arab action in the information field. The resolutions included providing support for information and cultural activities in the occupied territories and providing financial support for the media institutions set up by the Palestinian National Authority in Gaza and Jericho.

The council reiterated resolutions on support for Arab information action. It approved the report prepared by the information experts on drawing up mechanisms and proposals that will guide Arab media organs when confronting terrorism and extremism in the region. It also highlighted the need to pay more attention to Arab information industries.

The council stressed the importance of Arab cooperation and coordination in the use of satellite channels and recommended studying the Egyptian proposal to set up a higher council to coordinate among the Arab satellite channels, which would be the principal mechanism for coordination.

It also stressed the need to promote cooperation between Arab and world news agencies.

League Chief Receives Report on Yemen Mission

NC1407150294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has received a report on the Yemen mission of the Arab League delegation headed by Muhammad Sa'id Bayraqdar, assistant secretary general for military affairs.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid also received a written message from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih paying tribute to the efforts of the Arab League and highlighting its pan-Arab role in strengthening common Arab action.

The League secretary general said he appreciated the steps taken by Yemen to lessen the ordeal experienced by the Yemeni people and the Yemeni leadership's willingness to boost relations with all its neighboring states to maintain the region's security and stability.

The League delegation returned from Sanaa today after ending its mission in Yemen as part of its efforts to contain the Yemeni crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

Islamic Jihad Denies Intent To Participate in Authority

JN1407191094 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1649 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Statement issued by an Islamic Jihad Movement information source in "Palestine"; date not given]

[Text] News agencies have reported that the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine is planning to join 'Arafat's self-rule authority. These agencies based their reports on a statement made by some person carried by the newspaper AL-QUDS on 13 July 1994.

We would like to reiterate that the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has pledged to our nation and people to proceed with its jihad along the road of liberating Palestine until all liquidationist and sell-out accords, in the forefront of which are the Oslo and Cairo accords, are thwarted.

The movement would also like to say that such statements are part of a conspiracy concocted by the Zionist intelligence organs and the 'Arafatist self-rule authority against the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine.

The information source went on to say: While cautioning news agencies and newspapers about this issue, we, within the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, would like to urge them to call a spade a spade, and not to implicate the Islamic Jihad in such games. At the same time, we would like to reiterate our determination to persist with our holy battle. Delusions will not distract us from this battle. The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine will continue to reject any sell-out of our people's sacred rights. It will persist with its jihad until the conspiracy is thwarted, and until Palestine, all of Palestine, is liberated.

'Abd-Rabbuh Vows To 'Liberate All Palestinian Soil'

TA1507045194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, the Palestinian Authority's information official, says the Palestinians will not rest until they liberate all Palestinian soil and fly their flag over al-Aqsa Mosque. He made the statement at a reception in his honor given by Yasir 'Arafat on his

arrival in Gaza. 'Abd-Rabbuh was forced to wait two days in Rafah, Egypt, after Israel closed off the border terminals until the four blacklisted terrorists were expelled from the Gaza Strip.

Adviser: PNC Not To Convene If Israel Bans Officials

JN1407124994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0950 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Interview with Ahmad al-Tibi, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, by 'Umar Zaydani on 14 July; place not given; from the "With the Midday Events" program—recorded]

[Text] [Zaydani] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, special adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, did you transport Jihad 'Amrin in your car to the crossing point in Rafah?

[Al-Tibi] This issue was resolved at 0100. I think the subject is closed.

[Zaydani] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, how did this incident happen? How did these people enter? Do they know that they are banned from entering without Israel's permission?

[Al-Tibi] There is a misunderstanding. The Palestinian side believed that there was an initial approval of their entry, therefore, they entered with the brother president. But what is more important was that the Palestinian side handed their passports to the officials in charge of the crossing. This shows that there was no evil intentions to let them in illegally. The Israeli side, in the first place, was aware of their presence from their passports, which were handed to them by the Palestinians. Therefore, there were no bad intentions. When it was clear that their case was not resolved yet by the Joint Liaison Committee and the official channels, and due to our desire to end this case quickly—and at the request of the brothers themselves—they left Gaza for Egypt and they will return to Gaza very soon after their request is discussed and approved by the Joint Liaison Committee.

[Zaydani] As you know, Israel views such incidents as dangerous and as a violation of the agreement, how does the PLO or Yasir 'Arafat view this incident?

[Al-Tibi] The Israeli response was at least exaggerated. Mamduh Nawfal is a member of the Palestine National Council [PNC], Abu-Firas [Mustafa al-Liftawi] is also a member of the highest leadership, as well as brother Nahad al-Jayyusi and Jihad 'Amrin. The Israelis cannot deny the entry of these leaders. The subject of passing the names was agreed on in the Cairo agreement. Israel has no right to deny the entry of Mamduh Nawfal, Abu-Firas, Nahid al-Jayyusi or others because they are members of the Palestinian leadership. They are PNC members. Some people want the PNC to convene in Gaza. How can the PNC be held in Gaza if Israel vetoes this or that member? This will not happen, and the PNC will not convene—as I said this morning—the PNC will not convene in the Gaza Strip to amend the disputed articles as long as Israel vetoes any of the PNC members.

[Zaydani] Does Israel have the right, according to the agreement, to veto the entry of anyone to the self-rule areas?

[Al-Tibi] The PLO will allow into its lands anyone it deems suitable, weather leadership members or guests. But according to the agreement, this should take place after discussing it at the Joint Liaison Committee. This was what should have been done—the subject should be discussed in an acceptable manner, and the PLO has the right to allow into its lands anyone it wants. Mamduh Nawfal, who they said carried out the Tarshiha or Ma'alot operations, and brother Abu-Firas, etc.... [pauses] On the Palestinian side, some people say that General Amnon Shahaq had carried out this operation or that assassination, and that General Ehud Baraq.... [pauses] and in spite of this he is leading the Israeli delegation to the negotiations. There was a bloody page in the past, and this page was turned when Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat shook hands. Yasir 'Arafat himself was the first man responsible for all these leaders. He who shakes 'Arafat's hand should shake the hands of all PLO cadres.

[Zaydani] Did the Palestinian and Israeli hold high-level contacts yesterday and the day before?

[Al-Tibi] The outcome of what took place yesterday and the resolving of the issue a few hours ago, this morning, have been through continuous high-level contacts.

[Zaydani] Did you have contacts with the Israeli authorities and government?

[Al-Tibi] This issue was resolved after we made contacts with the Israeli side. I did not contact the Foreign Ministry, and I did not take the initiative to contact them. Anyone who contacts me is welcome.

[Zaydani] Do you think that such incidents should be avoided in the future, and that entry of Palestinian figures should be clearly coordinated between Israel and the PLO?

[Al-Tibi] The Joint Liaison Committee will meet to discuss this subject in particular in order to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, and to avoid misunderstandings.

[Zaydani] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, a final question, you referred to the convening of the PNC, has a time been set for this meeting?

[Al-Tibi] No, no date has been set, but brother President 'Arafat said it will convene in Gaza to fulfill the commitment made by the PLO. But I linked this to the behavior of the Israeli authorities. There is a new development. If Israel vetoes [the entry of PNC members] the PNC will not convene.

[Zaydani] Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, special adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, thank you very much.

[Al-Tibi] Thank you.

Jericho Radio: Israel Lifts Ban

JN1407161294 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Israel today lifted the ban it has imposed on the entry of Palestinian officials to Gaza and Jericho after yesterday's crisis following the entry of four Palestinian officials into Gaza. Israel alleged that they entered without its knowledge.

The last official to leave, Nihad 'Ammarin, left the Gaza Strip for Cairo today, ending the first crisis between the Palestinians and the Israelis since the Palestinian National Authority assumed its duties in Gaza. The other three officials left Cairo for Amman today. They indicated that their departure from the strip demonstrates the Palestinians' intention to ensure the success of the peace process and remove every Israeli pretext designed to hinder the implementation of the Cairo agreement.

One of the deported officials, Mamduh Nawfal, said they did not enter Gaza secretly and that the Palestinian Liaison Committee informed the Israeli authorities of their arrival.

New Airline To Start Flights to Cairo 'Mid-August'

NC1407155294 Paris AFP in English 1456 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Manama, July 14 (AFP)—The new Palestinian airline is due to start up in mid-August with an inaugural flight linking the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho with Cairo, a Palestinian official announced Thursday [14 July].

Fayiz Zaydan, head of Palestinian civil aviation, told the Bahraini daily AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ the company planned to buy helicopters capable of carrying 50 passengers each to link Gaza and Jericho and to fly to Cairo and Cyprus.

The company would later set up "new airports within 10 months" to take 150-seat jets which would fly to Gulf Arab capitals, Rome and Athens.

"Qalandyah will be the main Palestinian airport," he said, without elaborating.

Qalandyah airport, north of Jerusalem, was built by Britain during its mandate in Palestine. It has only one runway and basic installations, and has been used by Israel mainly for internal flights and as an emergency facility since the West Bank was seized in the 1967 Middle East war.

The Palestinians have always objected to any use of Qalandyah by international airlines, since it is inside the annexed area of East Jerusalem.

Zaydan said long-haul aircraft would fly in and out of the self-rule areas at a later stage.

Negotiations were under way with potential donors, including the European Airbus manufacturer, to finance the Palestinian airports and airliners, Zaydan said.

Labor Minister on Future for National Authority

MM1407113594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 5

[Interview with Samir Ghawshah, Palestinian National Authority "labor minister," by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis on 12 July]

[Excerpts] [Khashanah] What is the Palestinian Authority's main task after the entry of its members and leader into the self-rule areas?

[Ghawshah] The PLO's and the Palestinian Authority's main task is still to achieve the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the occupied territories, especially since what has happened so far is a first step.

About two months have elapsed since the Cairo accord was signed, and the negotiations are supposed to be continued in order to achieve the occupation forces' withdrawal from West Bank towns and villages and the transfer of all powers to the Palestinian Authority.

There is also another main task concerning reorganizing our people's conditions in all sectors, health, economy, culture, and education, in order to build a Palestinian national authority on the territories from which Israel withdraws and to build the elements of the Palestinian state in the stage ahead. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] What will the PLO's fate be after the Palestinian Authority assumes the tasks of solving citizens' daily problems?

[Ghawshah] It is untrue that the Palestinian Authority will have all the powers. The powers of PLO institutions are continuing: Legislative powers are still in the National Council's hands, and partially in the Central Council's hands. And the authority [al-marji'iyah] will continue to be represented in these political institutions, first and foremost the Executive Committee.

And before all that, the PLO's responsibilities are wider and more comprehensive than those of the Palestinian Authority. Because it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied homeland. And the PLO is responsible for the Palestinian people and for achieving their aims.

I can say that there has to be integration between the PLO and the Palestinian Authority, because the latter represents part of the responsibility for the Palestinian

people, namely for part of the people inside the homeland. While the PLO has more comprehensive and wider responsibilities. For example, the PLO Political Department continues to take charge of foreign relations during the transitional phase, because under the accord the Palestinian Authority cannot have representation abroad, nor can it conclude agreements with states during the transitional phase. This duality will continue until the task specified for the transitional phase has been accomplished and until all responsibilities and powers have been transferred to the Palestinian Authority. At that point new conditions could emerge, necessitating a discussion of different forms and formulas for Palestinian action. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] As you are from Jerusalem, do you expect any progress in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations that resolves the fundamental dispute over the city?

[Ghawshah] When we talk about Gaza and Jericho First, it also means Nabulus, Hebron, Jerusalem, and every Palestinian town and village occupied in June 1967. The distinction exists on the schedule only and has nothing to do with the degree of importance. We are insisting on Israeli withdrawal from it [Jerusalem] so that it will be the capital of our independent state, especially as that withdrawal is completely in line with the peace agreement, which considers the Jerusalem issue one of the main issues to be negotiated in the final phase. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] What is your opinion of Hamas' announcement that it is going to oppose the Palestinian Authority peacefully?

[Ghawshah] We announced in the past that predictions of a Palestinian civil war or infighting were erroneous. We are confident of our people's political awareness, maturity, and sense of responsibility. Actually what has happened so far is auspicious as long as everyone in the Authority and the opposition continues to adhere to democratic methods and means. [passage omitted]

Authority Consulting Factions on Municipalities

TA1407155494 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Nihayat al-'Arif]

[Text] Consultations have been conducted at the Ministry of Local Government in Jericho and Gaza with Palestinian factions in the West Bank about the issue of municipality and village councils, the appointment of temporary municipal councils, and preparations for elections. These consultations were held in close cooperation with all factions, including Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, FIDA [Palestinian Democratic Union], and the People's Party. During these meetings ideas and criteria in the sphere of service were crystallized.

It is worth noting that Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat holds the post of Minister of Local Government and is managing these consultations.

'Arafat Inaugurates U.S.-Funded Housing Project

NC1407131994 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Jabaliya Refugee Camp, Gaza Strip, July 14 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat inaugurated Wednesday [13 July] the first American-funded housing project that is to provide nearly 200 families with homes in the overcrowded Gaza Strip.

Together with US Ambassador to Tel Aviv, Edward Djerejian, 'Arafat cut a ribbon to unveil the foundation stone in the impoverished Jabaliya area, as hundreds of residents applauded and cheered.

"I sent thanks to President (Bill) Clinton for this initiative by the American people to help build these units," 'Arafat told reporters after the ground-breaking ceremony.

The US Agency for International Development provided 6.8 million dollars for the Al-Karamah Towers project, as part of 25 million dollars pledged for housing in the Gaza Strip. The Palestine Housing Council is responsible for implementing the project.

The American money comes out of 500 million dollars USAID funds for the Palestinian Authority over the next five years.

A camp for Palestinian refugees since 1948, Jabaliya today overflows with some 70,000 people. The new units will sell for an estimated 36,000 dollars, payable in installments.

'Arafat earlier received Djerejian at his temporary headquarters in the seaside Palestine Hotel, in the first visit by a senior American diplomat since the PLO chief's return.

"It (the project) is symbolic, a landmark in a new phase of American-Palestinian relations," said Muhammad Shadid, chairman of the housing council. "Over the years, (the relations) can be characterized as turbulent and shifting," Shadid told some 200 foreign visitors and Palestinian officials seated beneath a canopy in an arid area near the project site.

Shadid said the Al-Karamah project was small compared to the housing needs in Gaza and the West Bank, which he evaluated at 100,000 units, with an annual need of 12,000 units. In addition, up to 30 percent of houses in Gaza and the West Bank are "unfit for human habitation," Shadid said. He said another 10,000 units were needed for Palestinians "just returned from long years of exile or expulsion."

Abu-Nidal To Adopt 'Peaceful Political Struggle'

JN1407122594 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic i4 Jul 94 p 20

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in Amman have denied reports that Abu-Nidal, Sabri al-Banna [leader of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council], has died.

The source said Abu-Nidal is alive and he had undergone three plastic surgeries on his face that made him look as if he is someone else, very different from the pictures distributed by the international counterterrorism establishments that coordinate their operations with the CIA.

These sources stressed that the Abu-Nidal Organization is still practicing its operations and is present in more than one Arab capital under different banners. The movement has offices in most Arab and European capitals.

The sources said that the Abu-Nidal Organization will be transformed into a leftist revolutionary party operating in Palestine and Arab territories. The sources added that a group of the movement's political intellectuals are working out a new program for the party that seeks the realization of its objectives through peaceful political struggle.

Opposition Factions in Dispute Over Detainees

MM1507085094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Popular Front and Democratic Front Deny They Approved Their Detainees' Signing of Document Renouncing Violence"]

[Excerpts] Damascus—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by George Habash has denied the statement by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations with the Israelis, about its approval of the signing of a document containing an undertaking to "renounce violence." Meanwhile sources of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) said that Sha'th's position "brings nothing new." Sources of the two fronts [as published] said that the issue of the position on the signing of the document "was the object of a major dispute among the Palestinian factions opposed to the Oslo accord" during the meetings of the opposition "Palestinian Forces Alliance." [passage omitted]

Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, Hamas representative in Damascus, believes there is nothing new in Sha'th's statements. He told AL-HAYAH that the position on the document "was taken by the detainees themselves. They made a decision in this connection, we give them the freedom to make decisions, and we support their decisions." [passage omitted]

The position on the document signing aroused differing views among leaders of Palestinian factions, especially the Popular Front and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] (led by Nayif Hawatimah) on the one hand and Hamas and Islamic Jihad on the other during the opposition alliance's meetings. [passage omitted]

The Popular Front spokesman told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the two Islamic organizations' position "violates" the foundations of the 10 factions' alliance. "We discussed this question seriously at the recent meetings." Meanwhile Abu-Muhammad Mustafa told AL-HAYAH: "Our dispute with others is that their detainees signed and have been released and are now saying they refused to sign and are accusing others. And when we talk to them [the officials], they say: It is their personal position, and we will judge them."

He pointed out that the Hamas detainees' agreement to sign the document renouncing terrorism and violence "does not mean they have suspended intifadah and resistance action. We are all against terrorism and violence, but resistance is not the same thing." He added that "some detainees continued their intifadah and resistance action" after their release.

'Arafat Appoints Heads of Palestinian-Israeli Bodies

TA1407155094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has decided to appoint Nabil Qassis to head the Civilian Affairs Committee in the talks on the transfer of power and legal issues. He has also decided to appoint 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya to head the special committee examining pending issues in the Gaza-Jericho accord.

Palestinian Radio To Broadcast From Ship Off Gaza

TA1407153394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 6

[Article by 'Abd-al-Jabbar al-Barghuthi]

[Text] Gaza—Samih Samarah, director general of Palestinian radio has said that the station will begin broadcasting soon.

It is worth noting that the radio will be called the Voice of Palestine—the Voice of Freedom and Peace.

The director general added that the radio station will transmit from the Peace Ship that Abie Nathan presented to the Palestinian National Authority to exemplify the beginning of a new stage—the stage of Palestinian-Israeli peace. The transmissions will take place off the Gaza shore where the ship is anchored, and will cover all areas with the utmost clarity.

Broadcasting Body Denies Plan

JN1407160694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Statement by the PBTC; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] The Palestinian Broadcasting and Television Corporation [PBTC] emphasizes that the Voice of Palestine, the voice of Palestinian people everywhere, inside and outside the homeland, transmits from Palestinian territory on its current frequency of 702 kHz. We do not intend and do not have the practical technical resources to transmit from the sea, as erroneously reported in the AL-QUDS newspaper.

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, director general of the PBTC, which is the only body charged with installing and operating Palestinian radio and television stations, said vehicles carrying television transmission equipment are ready to enter Palestinian territory the moment the Israeli authorities rescind their recent measures to prevent the entry of the vehicles at the Rafah crossing point.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that we will shortly begin transmitting on a new frequency and will inform you of the details when the technical measures are completed."

'Arafat Rallies Populace for Reconstruction Efforts

NC1507062794 Paris AFP in English 0252 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Report by Hasan Juini]

[Excerpt] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, July 15 (AFP)—PLO chairman Yaser 'Arafat, well versed in the art of persuasion on the diplomatic circuit, is now having to put his skills to good use among his own people, who face a long and difficult period of reconstruction in Gaza.

"I must tell you that to build our state I am counting on God and on you, not on the donor countries," 'Arafat warned a Palestinian delegation from the Shaykh Radwan district of Gaza City.

"My brothers, we need a revolution. Gaza must have its port and airport, so roll up your sleeves. I'm ready to be the first volunteer," he exclaimed.

Since returning to the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho in the West Bank for good Tuesday [12 July] 'Arafat has made a slogan of the phrase: "It will be a long journey, but we're all in it together."

"Our people have helped to build countries from Chile to Australia," 'Arafat told the delegation.

"We are determined to build our native land stone by stone. It will take a long time, but we will get there in the end, with God's will and our own efforts."

The per capita annual gross national product (GNP) of the Gaza Strip is 780 dollars, compared with 11,000 dollars in Israel.

More than half the Strip's 800,000 inhabitants are refugees, crammed into less than 350 square kilometres (140 square miles), making the territory one of the most densely populated areas in the world.

The 27-year Israeli occupation and the Palestinian uprising, or intifadah, which erupted in December 1987, paralysed economic life there.

Only 20,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are allowed to work in Israel—in industry, agriculture, construction and tourism.

Since his return, 'Arafat has seen a host of Palestinian "ministers" and representatives to discuss the running of the self- rule Gaza Strip and Jericho.

At their new seaside hotel serving as headquarters 'Arafat and senior officials have focused on the problems of unemployment, a dilapidated infrastructure and poor public services.

One member of his team, who asked not to named, said 'Arafat "listens, takes notes, consults his ministers but does not like to put forward proposals."

Outside the hotel a Palestinian man pleads to be allowed to see 'Arafat, or Abu-'Ammar as he is popularly called.

An 'Arafat aide says he will ask the PLO leader, then changes his mind, and gives the terse reply: "If everybody turns up wanting to tell Abu-'Ammar about his problems we'll need more than a century to resolve them." [passage omitted]

AL-QUDS Responds to Peres' Remarks on Jerusalem

TA1407175294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Why Is the Issue of Jerusalem Being Raised Now?"]

[Text] The statements by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres about Jerusalem passed through more than one channel, for, the ministry spokeswoman's denial that they were ever made to an international news agency did not put an end to these statements nor lead to their negation. This is because other media sources—and some of them Israeli—strongly confirmed that those statements were made and in the way in which they were publicized.

It is clear from an initial reading of Peres' statements that at best they were aimed at one of the Arab countries to appease it, or at worst to drive a wedge between that country and the Palestinians, but a deeper appraisal of the content of those statements shows that their realization is difficult and almost impossible.

The entire world is aware that Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip are Palestinian land occupied by force in 1967. Consequently, they are subject to Security Council Resolution 242 which stipulates that it was inadmissible to retain land occupied by force, and calls for Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967 in return for the achievement of a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace in the region. No one can exclude Jerusalem from the provisions of this resolution or arrange special solutions outside the framework of this resolution, which was adopted by the international community and which gave it a legal legitimacy.

The more dangerous loophole in the Israeli foreign minister's proposal is that it only includes religious sites belonging to Christians and Muslims and does not extend to discussion of the future of all of Jerusalem. The Israeli minister considers Jerusalem to be closed from the political aspect but open from the religious aspect. Some other parties might share his view, as he said, but there is no evidence or proof of that. In contrast, the Palestinian concept of the issue of Jerusalem stresses the holy city's political and legal aspect and the Palestinian aspirations that it become the capital of the independent Palestinian state, without excluding the religious sites as Minister Peres says.

The question is: Why is Israel urgently raising the issue of Jerusalem now, bearing in mind that it was Israel that insisted on postponing discussion of this issue until the beginning of talks about a final settlement? The objective might be to quickly close the city's file before the date of negotiations over it approaches. What is a given, however, is that controversial statements about this sensitive issue will absolutely not contribute to the advancement of the peace process or the achievement of its aspired for final objectives.

Algeria

Assassination Attempt on Interior Minister Fails

MM1407102794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: Attempt To Assassinate Interior Minister Fails"]

[Text] A high-ranking Algerian security source confirmed yesterday that gunmen tried the day before yesterday to assassinate Interior Minister Abderrahmane Meziane Cherif at the entrance to the government palace in the capital. The source added that the minister was not harmed and that a fierce clash took place between the security men and the gunmen and continued until midnight. Eyewitnesses in Dr. Sadan Street near the government palace area confirmed to AL-HAYAH that they heard shots about midnight on Tuesday and saw dense deployment of security men in the streets surrounding the incident site.

The sources also said that an attempt took place yesterday to assassinate the governor of Tebessa [tibaza] and that his escort was killed in the incident.

Meanwhile a number of foreign companies have decided to withdraw their employees from Algeria, while Italy has announced its decision to reduce the staff of its diplomatic mission.

Western Source Says Fearful of 'Terrorist' Acts

MM1407152894 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Western Source Expects Operations Against Algerian Interests Abroad"]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—A Western security source expressed yesterday his fears that Algerian Islamists might carry out "terrorist operations against Algerian interests abroad," such as embassies and the Algerian security services operating under the cover of these embassies. The source told AL-HAYAH that a dialogue is being conducted among leaders of the Islamists to determine the states in which these operations can be carried out, "as Islamic groups have collected a lot of information about the activities hostile to them abroad and the potential targets (embassies, diplomats' houses, and apartments in which external security men live)."

The source pointed out that what is delaying a firm decision in this connection is "the expected reaction from these states and its effect on the network providing financial and military support for the Islamists." The source said that Islamic groups in Algeria have made extensive contacts with movements supported by Iran in Sudan, Yemen, Lebanon, or Europe.

With regard to Libya, the security source points to a "war of rumors" between Libya and U.S. intelligence. The Americans, the source says, have failed to convince European services that the international terrorist Carlos is trying to seek refuge in Libya. They have also failed to persuade media services to publish a report to the effect that Libya sent arms to Sanaa in support of it in its war against the southerners "in order to sabotage Libyan-Egyptian relations." The source also pointed to attempts being made by the Libyan embassy [as published] abroad to contact Libyan oppositionists in preparation for announcing a general amnesty for all Libyan oppositionists abroad on the occasion of the Libyan revolution's 25 anniversary.

On Yemen, the source says that a state of anticipation is dominating European decisionmaking centers to determine two principal points: first, how to deal with the Islamists who participated in the military battles and with "the non-Yemeni Islamists" present in private camps. Second, Yemen's relations with neighboring states. The source expects the Yemeni regimes to deal "with the two points pragmatically."

On Hizballah in Lebanon, the source believes Hizballah has been given the "go-ahead" to carry out an "extraordinary" revenge action against the Israelis outside Lebanon to avenge the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani (a resistance leader), and to attack the training camp in al-Biqa'. The source said that the "go-ahead" is conditional on a number of things, most importantly that the revenge must be in an area that is very far from Lebanon and Syria, and that Hizballah should take account of the present sensitive phase in Iran's relations with a number of European states, as these relations have witnessed tension in the past because of terrorist operations (Germany and France).

The source adds: "Despite all this, Hizballah has so far been unable to carry out a terrorist action. It is still trying to collect information or obtain arms and explosives to carry out a revenge action primarily against the Israelis." The source pointed out that the lapse of more than 40 days since the Israeli raid without a retaliation [from Hizballah] raises questions about Western intelligence services' assessment of Hizballah network abroad. "Early estimates pointed to the existence of a main network comprising 10 to 20 elements in six states (three of them in Europe), saying that they are equipped with logistic capabilities enabling them to carry out a terrorist action within a short period of time." The source pointed out that Western services are interested in studying this change, "even though Western technological surveillance points to the possibility of a definite move by Hizballah to carry out a major action abroad."

'Severe' Splits Among National Islamists Reported

MM1407145494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Algerian 'Salvation Army' Criticizes 'Deviationists'"]

[Text] Splits have become more severe among the ranks of Algerian Islamists. After unification in the "Armed Islamic Group" framework was confirmed by one group only to be denied later by another, a statement was issued yesterday by the "Battalions of the Islamic Salvation Army," which said: "Reports are arriving from the United States, Switzerland, and European states that individuals representing no one but themselves are speaking in the name of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and the mujahidin. They have been so insolent that they have distributed statements welcoming some mujahidin and warning others." The statement added: "Everyone knows that those claiming to be representing the mujahidin abroad are promoting deviationist programs and have absolutely nothing to do with the mujahidin in the field. The FIS leadership abroad is known." The statement pointed out that "it was the Algerianization group which opposed the establishment of the Front at the outset, and they are now destroying the religion after trying in the past to ruin the Front and eat away its body after infiltrating its ranks."

Foreign Minister Meets Chinese Counterpart

LD1507001194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Algerian-Chinese talks entered their second day today. The talks began between Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen, and in the presence of the Chinese deputy prime minister.

The talks later expanded to include delegations of both countries. The talks dealt with economic and trade cooperation in new cooperation sectors. As a result of this cooperation, the joint Algerian-Chinese committee will meet within the next six months to extend the scope of Algerian-Chinese partnerships. This meeting will be the first of its kind since 1987.

Egypt

Mubarak Returns From Trip to Europe

NC1407201194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1929 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to the homeland safely this evening with God's help after a five-day tour during which he visited France, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

President Mubarak held talks with the leaders of the three countries on current developments in the Middle East and international issues of mutual interest in addition to bilateral relations between Egypt and each of France, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia.

To Visit Palestinian Autonomy Soon

MM1507140994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jul 94 p2

[Unattributed report: "Mubarak to Visit Autonomy Region Soon"]

[Excerpt] Amman, Oslo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Reuter—Informed Palestinian sources in Amman have stated that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak intends to pay an official visit in the next few days to the Palestinian autonomy region.

The sources said that the Egyptian president had told Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat that he wished to visit Gaza and Jericho as an expression of Egypt's support for and solidarity with the Palestinian National Authority. The sources added that President Mubarak's visit to the Jericho area would reflect the Egyptian Government's eagerness to support 'Arafat's political line and inclination to set up a Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil.

The same sources also said that a number of Arab leaders including King Hassan of Morocco and Tunisian President Ben Ali as well as Omani officials intend to visit the Palestinian autonomy region in the coming few weeks. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Paper's Reports on Hala'ib Events Disputed

NC1507054694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2140 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (MENA)—MENA has learned from reliable sources that reports by the Sudanese newspaper HORIZON concerning the death of two Sudanese soldiers in the Hala'ib region, the detention of a number of Sudanese citizens, and an attack on the region's Red Crescent representative, have no basis in fact.

These sources stated that what the newspaper published is nothing but a fable.

Islamic Ideological Seminar Opens in Tanta

NC1407114294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Tanta, Nile Delta, 14 Jul (MENA)—An Islamic Ideological Seminar for university youth opened in the town of Tanta, 90 km north of Cairo today. Al-Gharbiyah Governor Mahir al-Jundi delivered a speech affirming the importance of these seminars in answering the youth's questions, inculcating them on correct and righteous Islamic thought, and enlightening them against terrorism. He called on the youth to adhere to correct thought and to seek knowledge from qualified scholars, especially those from al-Azhar.

University professors, Islamic men of religion, and al-Azhar scholars are participating in the one-day seminar, in addition to 10,000 students from the governorate.

Libya

JANA Attacks 'Blatant' U.S. Interference in Algeria

LD1407164794 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Washington, 14 July, JANA—Within the framework of the U.S. Government's blatant interference in the internal affairs of sisterly Algeria, the spokeswoman for the U.S State Department has expressed what she termed Washington's concern over the situation in Algeria and said that the Algerian Government had to hold a so-called a dialogue with the Islamic Salvation Front.

Thus Washington is intent on dictating specific policies on this sisterly Arab country in a bid to impose its hegemony and it forgets that Algeria does not need any guidance from anyone.

Al Bayda Citizens Give Communique to al-Qadhdhafi

LD1307185794 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Al Bayda, Nasser [Jul] 13, JAMAHIRIYA NEWS AGENCY—The masses of Al Bayda issued a communique on the occasion of welcoming the leader of the revolution declaring their readiness for steadfast resistance against and confrontation of an provocative attempt or Western adventure against the Jamahiri system and its socialist orientation.

The masses confirmed that they will organize suicide squad at fortifications in the wadis and jungles in defence of the great Al-Fatih Revolution, its leader and its achievements.

The masses highlighted the history of the city in the holy struggle against the invaderous traitors and its great pleasure at welcoming one of the dearest sons and leader Mu'ammar Muhammad 'Abu-Meniar al-Qadhdhafi.

The masses declared to the whole world especially who protect the interests of the Western alliance consisting of America, Britain, and France of their readiness for armed resistance and immediate confrontation against any attempt aimed at the humiliation of the Libyan people over imparing its freedom of decisionmaking process.

Also the tribes of al-Jabal al-Akhdar meeting in Al Bayda declared their condemnation and rejection of the decisions taken by the so-called Security Council or the U.N. on the so-called and fabricated Lockerbie issue and all schemes of internationalization in a bid to deflect the Great Jamahiriya of its nationalist and progressive leading role.

The tribes stressed their opposition to any political decision taken by any international or national organization which may contradict the policies of and laws of the Great [words indistinct] the tribes [words indistinct] Akhdar in Al Bayda declared their condemnation and dismay at the elements of treachery, deception, apostacy, and espionage or any act which may violate the pledges which the masses made to their beloved son Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

They pledged themselves to eleminate and crasp [as received] any traitor, spy, agent, mercenary, or any one who may plot against the pioneering Jamahiri system.

The tribes of al-Jabal al-Akhdar declared as a lawful act the elimination of any adventerist, atheist, partisian or any verson who promote division, discord or false information in an attempt to prejudice the mocal and feelings of the masses.

The tribes of al-Jabal al-Akhdar in Al Bayda declared their eternal adherence to the objectives and principles to the [words indistinct] Al-Fatih Revolution and that the leadership of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

They reasserted their readiness to execute their decision of death in defence of the revolution, its leader and its achievements.

Chadian Prime Minister Meets With Committee Secretary

LD1307170394 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Brother Secretary for the General People's Committee ['Abd-al-Majid al-Mabruk al-Qa'ud] held talks this morning with Chadian Prime Minister Nouradeen Kassire Delwa Koumakoye who arrived today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah to attend joint Arab Libyan-Chadian higher committee meetings. [passage omitted]

Meets al-Qadhdhafi

LD1407210794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution received Dr. Nouradeen Kassire Koumakoye, the prime minister of the Republic of Chad, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah to attend the meetings of the Libyan Arab-Chadian Higher Joint Committee, and the delegation accompanying him.

The Chadian prime minister conveyed a message to the brother leader of the revolution from his brother President Idriss Deby, which included the congratulations of President Idriss Deby and the Chadian people to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people on the 25th anniversary of the great al-Fatih Revolution. [passage omitted]

President Deby emphasized that the Chadian people stood beside the Libyan Arab people in confronting the unjust measures imposed on them because of their

stance against the enemies of peoples and their support for African liberation movements. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, which was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee and a number of members of its secretariat, the brother leader of the revolution heard a review of what was discussed within the framework of the Higher Joint Committee regarding programs for economic and social integration between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Chad. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Cabinet Decides By-Elections To Be Held 16 Sep

LD1307211094 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Excerpts] A cabinet meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. A number of reports were presented by ministers and some bills were examined. [passage omitted]

Regarding the bills submitted to it, the cabinet discussed a draft decree on setting a date for by-elections for the three House of Representatives seats that are vacant, following the death of El-Jadida II's representative and the annulment of the results of the elections in Arfoud and Taourirt constituencies.

According to the decree that has been adopted, and in conformity with the royal decree issued on 9 May 1977 relating to the law on the constitution of the House of Representatives and the election of its members, this by-election will take place on 16 September.

It has also been decided to hold local by-elections on the same day to fill the vacancies in some local constituencies.

'Entente Nationale' Leaders Hail King's Initiative

LD1407132894 Rabat MAP in English 1256 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Rabat, 14 Jul (MAP)—Leaders of the parties of the "Entente Nationale" (majority in the parliament) examined at a meeting Tuesday [12 July] the call made by King Hassan II to political parties to take part in a coalition government and the sovereign's decision to all "political prisoners."

The meeting gathered Arsalane al Jadidi, secretary general of the National Democrat Party (PND), Mohamed Laensar respectively secretary general of the Popular Movement (MP) and Maati Bouabid chairman of the Constitutional Union (UC).

A joint statement released by the three parties said the meeting dealt with the "vanguard" decisions announced by the sovereign for the strengthening of the democratic process in the country. The "Entente Nationale" parties which expressed "satisfaction over the royal orientations meant to establish a favorable environment for national solidarity to take up the challenges of the present and secure the future" hailed the moves made to ensure a political detente and strengthen the state of law in Morocco.

At the end of the meeting, participants decided to carry on concertation in this regard and follow the evolution of events, the source added.

Sudan

Delegation Ready for Nairobi Peace Talks

EA1407210494 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Jul (SUNA)—Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister in the Office of Federal Administration and official government spokesman in the peace negotiations, says the government delegation will leave for Nairobi on 17 July to participate in the upcoming round of negotiations with the rebels, in line with the initiative of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD] member states. Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad called on the rebel factions to [word indistinct] to attend the meeting on the fixed date to begin negotiations and not to be as late as they were the last time.

During a meeting here today with the U.S. ambassador, Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad reaffirmed the government's keenness for the achievement of comprehensive and just peace through the negotiations. He said the government has completed preparations for participation in this next round of negotiations.

During the meeting, the U.S. envoy confirmed his country's support for the IGADD initiative. He said an embassy delegate, Melissa Wells, has been appointed the U.S. president's envoy to Sudan and that she will travel to Nairobi. He attributed her absence at today's meeting to personal reasons.

Opposition DUP, SLPM Issue Joint Statement

MM1407144694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p5

[Joint statement issued by the DUP and the SPLM, signed in Cairo on 13 July by Dr. Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad, DUP deputy leader, and commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki, chairman of the SPLM National Congress]

[Text] The Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] seek a peaceful and permanent solution to Sudan's problems, a solution that would preserve the homeland's independence and unity. The two sides commend the efforts made in Addis Ababa, Abuja, and Nairobi as well as the current efforts of the states of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development [IGADD].

Relations between the DUP and the SPLM have been characterized by interest in consultation and understanding on all issues concerning the homeland. That was manifest in the Sudanese peace agreement signed by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and Dr. John Garang on 11 November 1988 and upheld by all the patriotic forces. It was also evident in the continuing consultations and exchange of views up to the Nairobi Declaration of 17 April 1993. In pursuance of the consultations and understanding, an SPLM delegation headed by Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki visited Cairo at the invitation of DUP Leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani. Several meetings were held between the two sides (the party and the movement). In confirmation of these efforts, the SPLM and the DUP declare their full faith in the following principles for a just peace and permanent stability in Sudan:

I. Common faith in the unity of the people and territory on sound political, constitutional, legal, economic, and social foundations.

II. Real peace in Sudan cannot be confined to the problem in the south. It must be viewed on the basis that our problems are basically ethnic [qawmiyah].

III. Our ethnic problems can only be solved through serious, clear, and continuous dialogue among all the Sudanese patriotic forces.

IV. The history and nature of the Sudanese conflict confirm that a military solution would not bring permanent peace and stability to the country and that a just, political, and peaceful solution must be everyone's common objective.

V. Fulfillment of unity is conditional on the inclusion of the following principles in the political, constitutional, legal, economic, and social structure of the country:

A. Sudan is a multiracial, multireligious, and multicultural country. That plurality must be affirmatively recognized and work must be geared toward reconciling the signs of these variations and plurality by guaranteeing the right of expression to emphasize the unity of the Sudanese nation and its special structure.

B. Emphasis should be laid on the creation of a democratic state that guarantees freedom of belief, worship, and exercise of religious rites for all citizens, and rejection of all kinds of repression and hegemony.

C. On the question of the link between religion and politics, national unity, and ensuring a just and lasting peace in Sudan, it has been agreed that the transitional and permanent constitutions should include the following provisions:

(1) International human rights charters and conventions shall be considered an integral part of the Sudanese charters. Any law issued contrary to them would be considered void and unconstitutional.

(2) The law shall guarantee full equality for all citizens on the basis of the right of citizenship and respect for beliefs and traditions without any discrimination between citizens on grounds of religion, race, gender, or culture. Any law promulgated contrary to that would be void and unconstitutional.

(4) [as published] Commitment to the implementation of decentralization or any form of autonomy for the various Sudanese regions.

(5) Confirmation and guarantee of a just distribution of wealth, giving priority to the most damaged and most backward areas.

(6) Commitment to inclusion in the Sudanese constitution of the principle of independence of the judiciary and separation of powers.

VI. In the event of a violation or abandonment of the main principles to be agreed upon at the national constitutional conference, the injured party or parties would have the right to self-determination through a referendum for the party concerned, and the result of the referendum must be binding.

VII. All efforts, energies, and resources should be mobilized for the fulfillment of the following priorities:

1. Bringing down the al-Bashir-al-Turabi regime and establishing democracy and peace.

2. Making serious efforts to enhance the performance of the Democratic National Grouping and speeding up its fifth congress.

3. Full solidarity with the SPLM.

VIII. The two sides agree that the draft declaration of principles submitted by the IGADD states was a positive step reflecting the neighboring states' concern about Sudan's problems, provided Sudan's unity is given priority. In that context, the two sides welcome the international efforts made in search of comprehensive solutions to Sudan's problems.

Finally, the DUP and the SPLM appeal to all the forces of the Democratic National Grouping and all the Sudanese people to rally around these principles.

Western Sahara

Butrus-Ghali Seeks Western Sahara Referendum in 1995

LD1507084394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali said today that he is prepared to recommend 14 February next year as the date for holding the self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara under

the auspices of the United Nations. In a report sent today to the Security Council, Butrus-Ghali spoke of new difficulties which have arisen concerning the participation of observers from the OAU in the preparation process for the referendum—a move which Rabat has rejected.

According to Butrus-Ghali, a solution to that disagreement must be found as soon as possible so as to carry out the proposed program to hold the referendum next February, a program in which the process of identifying voters could begin this month or August at the latest and end in November.

Should the Security Council, based on the secretary general's next report in August, decide that the referendum should go ahead as specified by the UN's settlement plan, Butrus-Ghali is prepared to set 1 October as the beginning of the transitional period and 14 February for holding the self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara.

Kuwait

Paper Questions Mubarak's Stance on Yemen

JN1407181394 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 12 Jul 94 pp 1, 19

[Opinion column by Nasir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Fahd: "Point of Order"]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak is an Arab leader who gets extremely distressed when there is interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states. This was manifested in the commendable stands he has taken toward regional events. This year, he has repeatedly said he will not allow anybody to interfere in his country's domestic affairs. Nobody can blame him for this, particularly when he has tangible evidence regarding the impact of such interference in the wave of unrest undermining security and stability in fraternal Egypt.

For our part, we have consistently said Egypt's stability and security is the cornerstone of stability in the Arab region. But, because of the affection we harbor for President Mubarak, and the high esteem in which we hold him, we would like to be frank with him, and say his statements on the Yemeni crisis since its inception have not been in harmony with his cherished principle of noninterference in the domestic affairs of sovereign nations. He might even have gone too far in his handling of inter-Arab affairs when he deemed as occupation the entry of Yemeni forces into the city of Aden to address a domestic situation created by the rebellion of a clique that acted against the legitimate government and constitutional legitimacy, and declared secession. Such a stand was not expressed even by the UN Security Council in the two resolutions it passed on the crisis. The UN Security Council deemed the conflict a domestic Yemeni affair that has to be handed within the context of the Republic of Yemen. The UN Security Council also underscored the importance of establishing a cease-fire and resuming national dialogue.

Now that a cease-fire has been established, and the secessionists' adventure has come to an end, President Mubarak has surprised us with a statement he has made to the French newspaper LE FIGARO, in which he said that "the Yemeni war has not ended, but just started."

With all due respect to his political foresight and intelligent analysis of regional and international developments, may President Mubarak permit us to say that this statement was flagrant interference in the domestic affairs of a fraternal Arab state that is attempting to cope with the effects of the war in order to address its causes. This effort by the Yemeni Government has been reflected in the decisions it has made. Additionally, the Yemeni leadership has issued a general amnesty, and is seeking to form a broad-based government encompassing all parties and political currents. Moreover, the Yemeni leadership is advocating national reconciliation on a basis that will ensure the restoration of security and stability throughout afflicted Yemen.

This statement by President Mubarak provokes questions about its motives. This statement could encourage the vanquished party to demonstrate arrogance, and to go to the limit in exacerbating the conflict instead of involving itself in the national reconciliation plan, which has not ruled out the participation of any Yemeni, including those who led the country to a catastrophe.

We have known Arab Egypt as a country that heals wounds, and comes to the rescue of brothers. If it were to fail to come to the rescue, then the least that it could do is to make scrupulous statements.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sultan Urges Youth To Join Armed Forces

LD1307131194 Riyadh SPA in English 1220 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Riyadh, July 13, SPA—Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, defence and aviation minister and inspector general, has urged the Saudi youth to join the Armed Forces either at the Ministry of Defence, the National Guard or the Interior Ministry.

"It is a great honour for any one to join the Armed Forces as it is a channel to serve religion and the country, said Prince Sultan in a press statement here yesterday after patronizing the graduation ceremony of the 52nd batch of the students of King 'Abd-al-'Aziz military college. Prince Sultan attributed the success attained by the kingdom to its adherence to the proper teachings of Islam and persistent work by its leaders and citizens.

Replying to a question on the kingdom's relations with the neighbouring countries, Prince Sultan said 'our religion urges us to have good relations with the neighbours and we hope the others will do the same.'

Alleged Fear of Yemen 'Threat' to Kingdom Derided

MM1407135394 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Jul 94 p 9

[Article by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid: "Yemen After the War"]

[Text] Most major wars are fed through more than one vein when they break out. There can be no doubt that some foreign veins participated in feeding the dispute. In my view, their role was just support for local bad conditions not of their own making. Many have now repeatedly spoken of the foreign role, by which some, as a hint or openly, meant the Gulf states and specifically the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, relying in their claims on arguments which seemed to be logical. These claims were mostly propagated by one of two parties: A Yemeni party that stands accused in connection with the Yemeni crisis, such as the northern party, which made a point of absolving itself of responsibility for the local conflict and

placed that responsibility on the shoulders of others; or a party in disagreement with the Gulf states, such as Iran and Iraq.

Despite the sensitive nature of that charge, it should be disected openly. Here, in the same accusatory manner, we ask: If Saudi Arabia played a part in the war then it must have had an interest in that. Did it have an interest in that?

Those who say yes use motive analysis and try to turn that into facts which must be taken for granted. The motives which some use as pretexts for accusing Saudi Arabia include the claim that Riyadh fears the threat of a united Yemen, demographically and geographically, and that it fears oil competition, and also recall the dispute of the sixties and the fact that the border dispute has not been resolved.

These charges have persuaded some to prematurely condemn Saudi Arabia. Let me here beg the readers' patience and discuss each one of these charges separately.

Firstly, the demographic motive—that is, the claim that a united Yemen with its combined population would constitute a strategic threat to the kingdom, and that the combined population of a united Yemen would reach 14 million, almost equaling the population of its Saudi neighbor.

The truth is that the population of South Yemen, on which the advocates of that claim have concentrated, only adds 2.5 million people to the population of the north. Could such a small figure worry any politician, let alone a state like Saudi Arabia, which has a sizable population?

Yemen, even united, would still have the smallest population, compared with the Gulf states. For example, Iraq's population is more than 18 million and Iran's about 60 million, and yet the threat from these two big states, which are in direct proximity to Saudi Arabia, has been repulsed. So why does anyone have to worry about Yemen, which is surrounded by mountains and has a small population?

Political geography negates the claim of strategic fear of a united Yemen. A quick examination of the map of the peninsula would immediately show that the Saudis' vital oil and industrial locations are in northeastern Saudi Arabia, not in the south where Yemen is. The alleged threat is very remote. To put it in clear figures, the distance between the nearest inhabited Yemeni border post and the nearest vital Saudi oil location is more than 1800 km. That is a long way. Even a junior student of politics would realize that that makes the Yemeni threat a joke. Furthermore, Yemen is embedded in mountainous and very difficult terrain which makes access and egress a very difficult task indeed, particularly if we realize that the height of the mountainous barriers is more than 2,000 meters. As regards the plains of the south, they face the deadly al-Rub' al-Khali desert sands. So, one can say in all honesty that the most impregnable Saudi gate, geographically speaking, is for purely topographical reasons the Yemeni gate. So, the Yemeni threat to Saudi Arabia is a myth that has never materialized in past history.

Tomorrow we talk about oil and the borders.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Urges Dialogue Among Yemeni Leaders

JN1407131594 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received a Yemeni House of Representatives delegation, led by Deputy Speaker Ahmad 'Abdallah al-Hajari, at al-Rif rest house this morning.

Talks dealt with the recent Yemeni developments and bilateral relations. The president reiterated the UAE's desire to see peace and stability in Yemen. [passage omitted] He also called for containing the traces of war through political dialogue and national reconciliation with the southern leaders, and for addressing wounds now before it is too late so that there will be no regrets. This, he said, will be in the interest of the Yemeni people and their stability.

Yemen

Council of Ministers Holds Meeting in Aden

JN1407150494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers met yesterday in the economic and commercial capital, Aden, under Acting Prime Minister Brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar. The council discussed with high responsibility the subjects on its agenda, which mainly concern efforts to restore life in Aden to normal and treat the consequences of the sedition created by the secessionist rebels, in implementation of the instructions of Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, and in the light of the field visits by the brother ministers to various facilities and government departments and agencies to view the damage inflicted on them.

The council decided to set up a working team under Acting Prime Minister Brother Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, comprising Deputy Prime Ministers Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi and 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba-Jammal and a number of brother ministers, to urgently develop ways to achieve stability in the fields of security, food supplies, and public services, particularly water and electricity.

The council heard reports from Planning and Development Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani and Foreign

Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah on the missions they were charged to fulfill at the United Nations and a number of sisterly and friendly states.

The council will resume its session today, Thursday, to discuss the remaining issues on the agenda and propose solutions to various issues.

In a related development, and within the context of his field visit in the economic and commercial capital, Aden, Acting Prime Minister Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, accompanied by deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, visited the directorate of Aden Port and several facilities associated with it. He viewed the damage inflicted on the port as a result of the acts of sabotage. He also viewed efforts to activate work, to operate the facilities at their full capacity, to repair equipment, machinery, and to provide the transportation needed to ensure efficient work at the port.

The acting prime minister was accompanied by Brothers Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of civil service and administrative reform; Muhammad al- Tayyib, deputy minister of housing and urban planning; and Taha Ahmad Ghanim, Aden governor.

Cabinet To Issue Statement

JN1407200194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers today continued its meetings in the city of Aden under Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Attar, under the canopy of the manifest victory scored by the forces vindicating unity and constitutional legitimacy against the rebellious renegades and secessionists.

At the outset of its meeting, the council commended our heroic Armed Forces, as well as the daring people's masses, who risked their lives to vindicate the Yemeni homeland and its territorial integrity, and demonstrated splendid steadfastness in the face of renegades and secessionists.

The Council of Ministers discussed the means to address the catastrophes and crimes committed against the homeland and citizens during the sedition created by the renegades and secessionists. The Council of Ministers accorded special attention to the city of Aden, particularly since it has sustained immense devastation at the hands of the gang that rebelled against our people's will, not to mention the chaos and the collapse of state institutions and service facilities it has witnessed.

The council was elaborately briefed by the ministers, heads of competent agencies, and the Aden governor on the situation in the city and other cities, on their public facilities, and also on the status of government and privately-owned installations. The reports addressed the damage sustained by people and their personal property, thanks to the tampering of reckless individuals and the irresponsible practices of the separatist gang.

The council will continue its meetings this evening, and later issue a press statement on the outcome of its meetings in Aden, the economic and commercial capital.

'Reconciliation' To Precede Government Formation

MM1407150094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sulayman Nimr, Raghidah Dirgham, and Faysal Makram: "Sanaa: Reconciliation With Socialist Party Before Formation of Government"]

[Excerpt] Aden, New York, Sanaa— A high-ranking Yemeni source said yesterday that a prominent member of the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] Political Bureau who is now in Sanaa "has denied that it was the party's Political Bureau which took the secession decision." He stressed this to the leadership in the Republic of Yemen at the highest level.

The source said that this development "is very important," because it reveals that the "secession operation was tantamount to a coup by some individuals, not a decision by the party." The source added that the importance of this development lies in its contribution to "returning the YSP to the government coalition" comprising the YSP, the Reform Grouping, and the [General People's] Congress.

The source stressed that efforts are now being made to prepare a political atmosphere for national reconciliation "before" forming a new government. The source expects the formation of a new government to take "weeks, perhaps two months." The source described reports about the formation of a new government within days as "untrue." The source stressed the importance of "reconciliation and then the formation of a government."

The source disclosed that "important contacts" will begin with whom he termed "leading and unionist YSP figures." The source said that "envoys and delegations will be sent to the places where these figures are." They include Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man who is in Abu Dhabi and Jarallah 'Umar and Ahmad al-Salami in Cairo.

The source stressed that the main idea behind these contacts is "to urge them to return to Sanaa with a view to holding a conference for the YSP, or holding a Central Committee meeting, so that the coalition can be restored in order to play its role in political action."

The sources added that there is an inclination to hold a meeting in Sanaa "to take a position on the secession, call for convening a conference for the party, and take a position on the formation of a new government."

A YSP source in Aden has said that there is an intention to hold a YSP Central Committee meeting to prepare for electing Salim Salih Muhammad as general secretary of the committee.

The source said that 'Ali Salim al-Bid's 'quitting' politics is "a message which has a great impact." The source stressed the importance of what the Political Bureau member said, namely that "it was not the party which took the secession decision," with regard to its return to effective participation in power.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received Fadl Muhsin, member of the YSP Political Bureau, the day before yesterday.

Meanwhile Yemeni sources have said that the meeting of the entire Council of Ministers in Aden, which began yesterday, "will continue for nearly 10 days until matters return to normal" in Aden. The sources added that "the aim is to bring the security situation under control and to stop security disruption and looting." [passage omitted]

Southern Official on 'Democratic Partisan Umbrella'

MM1407153694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 6

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Hajj: "Call for Meeting of 'Democratic Republic of Yemen' Leadership"]

[Text] Jeddah—Ahmad Farid al-Suraymah, who was appointed governor of Shabwah by "Democratic Republic of Yemen" [DRY] authorities, has sent a message to 'Ali Salim al-Bid, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jifri, Haydar al-'Attas, and Defense Minister Haytham Qasim, calling for "a meeting of the DRY frameworks and institutions represented in the Presidential Council, the Council of Ministers, and the governorates, provided the meeting is held in a neighboring state."

Al-Suraymah made it conditional in his message that a change be introduced to the Presidential Council so as to include six or seven members, and that every governorate be represented by one member in the council, with the governor himself acting as its military commander. He requested that the Council of Ministers remain as it stands.

Al-Suraymah proposed the formation of a supreme defense council comprising the commanders of four axes and the appointment of commanders for these axes, provided Haytham Qasim takes charge of the Lahij-Aden axis, Muhammad 'Ali Ahmad the Abyan axis, Ahmad Farid al-Suraymah the Shabwah axis, and 'Umar al-'Attas the Hadhramaut-al-Mahrah axis. And that this council should be entrusted with making all the arrangements to implement the liberation operation.

He announced to AL-HAYAH over the telephone the formation of the "democratic partisan umbrella." He said: "We have studied all aspects of the situation, political and military. In compliance with everyone's desire for party pluralism, despite the numerous criticisms against the parties, we should take into consideration that politics is the art of the possible. Taking account of the new world order and its requirements like pluralism and democracy, we—tribes, citizens, intellectuals, and independents—have decided to work under an umbrella called the democratic forces. As of today we will begin to operate under this democratic partisan umbrella."

He added: "We insist that we ha[illegible]al share with the Socialist Party, the [Sons[illegible]gue party, and the Liberation Front at all levels, even though we believe we have more support. We confirm our respect for everyone, but we would like to point out that in no way will we accept anything less."

He also said that he "conveyed this to the Presidential Council, ministers, and governors."

Ulema Call For Reforms, Shari'ah-Based Laws

MM1407103994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Now That They Feel They Have Stronger Influence, Yemeni Ulema Demand Constitutional Reforms"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa—Yemeni ulema yesterday concluded a three-day conference which they called the "Victory Conference." In their final statement they called for constitutional reforms to be conducted, the Islamic Shari'ah to be regarded as the sole source for laws in Yemen, and a penal code in line with the Book [Koran] and the Sunnah to be enacted. They also called for education and information policy to be amended so as to be in line with the Shari'ah. The speeches delivered by participants and their statement reflected their view that what happened in Yemen was "a legitimate jihad" and "a victory for Islam over communism and apostasy." A number of southern ulema participated in the conference, most notably Shaykh Ahmad Baharmaz from Abyan. In his speech he urged President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih "not to allow the Socialists to assume power again." It was noted that the conference vehemently attacked the Socialist Party in general, not just the "secessionist group like other Yemeni officials do. [passage omitted]

'Aziz Continues New York Meetings With UN Envoys

JN1407125994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] New York, 14 Jul (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz yesterday met at the UN Headquarters with a number of representatives of the UN Security Council members and other envoys to the UN.

Tariq 'Aziz met with Salim Bin-Muhammad al-Khusaybi, Oman's permanent representative at the United Nations. He then met with Renato Martino [name as transliterated], the Vatican's permanent representative at the United Nations. 'Aziz also met with Colin Kitting [name as transliterated], New Zealand's permanent representative and chairman of the UN Sanctions Committee.

Tariq 'Aziz discussed with the envoys relations between Iraq on the one hand and the United Nations and the UN Security Council on the other, as well as Iraq's cooperation and the fulfillment of its obligations and the role the United Nations can play to push the Security Council to fulfill its obligations as stipulated in Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

Meets Nonaligned Movement Envoys

JN1407190494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] At the United Nations today, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz met with representatives of the Nonaligned Movement's group at the UN Security Council. The Nonaligned Movement's group at the UN Security Council comprises the ambassadors of Nigeria, Oman, Djibouti, Rwanda, and Pakistan.

Engineer Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Organization; Dr. Riyad al-Qaysi, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and Ambassador Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, attended the meeting.

Ekeus' Statements on Cooperation With UN Reported

JN1407123794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] New York, 14 Jul (INA)—Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, has said that the report he recently presented to the UN Security Council includes a positive assessment of the continued progress and Iraq's cooperation to apply monitoring for armament programs.

In press statements he made following the consultations he held last night with the UN Security Council members, Ekeus added that Iraq has demonstrated full cooperation with the Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Mr. Ekeus said that he hopes the UN Security Council members will start to apply the monitoring and exchange views on this on the basis of what has been achieved thus far.

The INA correspondent in New York learned from a diplomatic source who participated in the session of consultations that Mr. Ekeus told the Council that Iraq had taken several initiatives to strengthen cooperation with the Special Commission and that everything concerning monitoring is proceeding well, quickly, and without any hitches.

Minister Denounces G-7 Decision on Embargo

JN1407143394 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Jul 94 p 19

[Report by Lam'i Shalabi from Cairo]

[Excerpt] Iraqi Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has said the Kuwaiti regime is practicing what he called political blackmail regarding the prisoner issue. He said Iraq has told the International Committee of the Red Cross that it has no prisoners.

Speaking in an exclusive statement to an AL-RA'Y correspondent on the periphery of the Cairo meetings of Arab information ministers, Hammadi also said his country has fully and seriously implemented the Security Council resolutions. France, Russia, the PRC, and a great many nonaligned states have testified to this.

The Iraqi information minister also denounced the decision of the G-7 summit in Naples last Sunday on the continuation of the false blockade and the unfair, arbitrary measures against the two peoples of Iraq and Libya. Hammadi urged the Arab peoples to refuse to comply with the siege against their Iraqi and Libyan brothers. He stressed the need to break these measures in order to preserve what is left of the concepts of Arab unity and nationalism.

Hammadi added that the big nations want the Iraq blockade to continue in order to advance their colonialist schemes in the Arab region, including the preparation for a new stage in the Arab-Israeli conflict. [passage omitted]

League Informed of Allied Aircraft 'Violations'

JN1407130994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jul (INA)—Iraq has protested the facilities that are still being provided by the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to American, British, and French aircraft. A letter sent by Iraq's permanent Arab League delegate to the league Secretariat noted that the facilities extended to the aircraft violating Iraqi airspace pose a threat to the security, sovereignty, and national unity of the country.

From 1-8 July, these aircraft mounted 272 sorties, having taken off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Iraq's league delegate asked that copies of the letter, which detailed the violations, be circulated among the member states.

UN Informed of U.S. Overflights 1-9 Jul

JN1407174794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1457 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] New York, 14 Jul (INA)—Iraq has informed the UN General Secretariat that U.S. aircraft have violated Iraqi airspace for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said that from 1-9 July, U.S. aircraft carried out 430 air sorties over northern and southern Iraq. The letter notes that two U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft violated Iraqi airspace on 2 and 5 July. Later, they left in the direction of Saudi airspace.

End of Yemeni War Seen as Victory for Arab Destiny

JN1507095794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Jul 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Victory of Yemeni Unity Is Victory for the Destiny of the Nation"]

[Text] The victory of Yemeni unity over secession records the nation's first victory over its enemies in the present situation since the great victory of the Mother of Battles over all the foreign and Arab forces of aggression, treachery, and treason.

It is right for the victory to come as a reply to a treasonous act which took place a few days ago, represented by a meeting of the Gulf band of illicit money and bribees from the Egyptian and Syrian regimes under the banner of the "Damascus Declaration," which the bribers have buried and the bribees still uphold. The victory has also come as a slap in the face to those who are not ashamed to issue a statement backing the secessionists just before their downfall by a Yemeni knockout blow, and the continuation of the blockade aggression on our people by deceptions which both the payer of the illicit money and the payees try to justify with the mean aim of harming the Iraqis and increasing their sufferings under the unjust blockade.

These little bribers and bribees seem to forget that the victory of the nation's will is inevitable and that the supremacy of unity in Yemen, through the defeat of the secessionists and their supporters in that band, heralds a new dawn which will witness another round of wise Iraqi prudence, which will topple the blockade and its promoters by a similar knockout blow. Then, faithful Arab faces will brighten and other faces which betrayed their Arab roots will blacken.

Blessed is the noble, free, and unionist will to which the Yemenis have held with a firm grip in order to prove to the sons of their nation that unity is their firm destiny and that secession is a dirty, temporary act.

Greetings to our Yemeni people and glory to those who made generous sacrifices in order to gain the future.

'Measures' Against Liquor Ban Violators Vowed

JN1407175594 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 10 Jul 94 p 4

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan has said that competent authorities will adopt deterrent measures against whoever violates the Revolution Command Council decree ordering the closure of places of entertainment, discotheques, and nightclubs, and the cancellation of the licenses of places serving all kinds of alcoholic drinks.

During a meeting with governors and ministry officials, the interior minister pointed out the need for competent authorities and the people's councils to play their role in following up the implementation of the central instructions and reporting on whoever is deluded into tampering with, ignoring, or circumventing the decree.

The minister said the decree is essentially an important and major stride in the earnest effort to contain any harmful and negative effects on the individual and the community.

Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan called on the owners of the places covered by the decree to obey and abide by the relevant instructions.

During the meeting, which was attended by the ministry under secretaries and officials, the minister said that the decree allows shops that are specialized in selling alcoholic drinks [for private consumption] and not covered by the aforementioned decree, to continue to do so.

During the meeting, conferees discussed the measures and arrangements that the ministry agencies will take to implement the decree. Operations rooms will be opened in the governorates to immediately start their work as soon as the deadline expires and final instructions are given to the central operations room in the ministry.

Imams Praise RCC Decree on Nightclubs, Liquor

JN1507094394 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 9 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed report]

[Text] The imams and preachers in Baghdad and the governorates have praised the esteemed Revolution Command Council [RCC] decree closing entertainment places, dance halls, and night clubs and withdrawing the licenses of places serving all types of liquor. They affirmed in their Friday prayer sermon that this is one of a series of decrees which the RCC has issued within the

framework of the faith campaign led by leader struggler President Saddam Husayn in order to keep the citizen away from negative practices which conflict with the values of the faithful society we all aspire for and to direct him to good deeds in the present circumstances in which imperialist plans are avidly seeking to undermine great Iraq and its struggler patient people. They emphasized that avoiding liquor, entertainment places, and dance halls elevates the position of Muslims and deeply engraves the values of faith in their hearts so they can confront the unjust blockade until decisive victory is achieved over their enemies.

The mosque imams and preachers appealed to Muslims all over the world to work for releasing Iraq's frozen assets in world banks in order to finance the jihadist faith campaign which struggler President Saddam Husayn has ordered by teaching the Holy Koran to 5 million male and female students in Iraqi schools. They pointed out that by refusing to release Iraq's assets, the enemies of Islam try desperately to kill the spirit of faith implanted in the hearts of the Iraqis under the Allahu Akbar flag, which is carried by leader President Saddam Husayn.

Visitors to the holy shrines in the Governorates of Karbala', al-Najaf, and Salah al-Din have prayed to God Almighty to preserve Iraq and its struggler leader and brave people and crown their struggle with great victory. They affirmed in their prayers and during the rituals of the visit to the tombs of the righteous imams that they will continue to stand behind the Allahu Akbar flag which is carried by leader struggler President Saddam Husayn until decisive victory is achieved over the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation. They praised the faith campaign which is led by the commander of the faithful gathering President Saddam Husayn. They also praised his excellency's care for the holy shrines and places of worship in deference to their historical and religious position.

Religious Committee Hails Decree

JN1407123194 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jul 94

["Text" of cable from the religious education committee in al-Anbar Governorate "hailing the Revolutionary Command Council's decision to close entertainment places, dance halls, and nightclubs and ban the consumption of alcoholic drinks in clubs, societies, and tourist places" to Saddam Husayn; date not given]

[Text] Mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him: We were overwhelmed by joy and happiness when we heard of the historic Decision No. 82, which approves the closure of entertainment places, dance halls, and nightclubs and bans the consumption of alcoholic drinks in clubs, societies, and tourist places.

This courageous decision confirms again that leader Saddam Husayn is the leader of the believers in this age and that he is the hope of the nation in building the society of faith and sincerity that enjoys the fortunes of the blessed faith campaign and defies the world tyranny under the eternal banner of Allahu Akbar [God is great]. Peace and blessings of God be upon you.

[Signed] The religious education committee in al-Anbar Governorate

Saddam Orders Increase in Price of Sugarcane

JN1407130694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and preserve him, has order an increase in the purchasing price for sugarcane from 250 dinars to 500 dinars per tonne.

DPK, PUK Leaders To Hold Talks in Paris

LD1407142094 Tehran IRNA in English 1407 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., July 14, IRNA—Leaders of Iraq's rival Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK), Mas'ud Barzani, and Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talabani are to travel to Paris for negotiations sponsored by the French Government.

An informed source close to Iraqi Kurds in northern Iraq said here Thursday that the decision had been taken following meetings between the PUK and DPK leaders in Irbil over the past two days.

Meanwhile a spokesman for the Islamic Movement Party of Kurdistan (IMPK) said Thursday that despite the PUK's decision to continue talks with its rival in Paris, it was gathering its forces for an assault on the cities of Halabjah and Zur [last name as received] that are now under control of the DPK and IMPK troops. The power struggle between the DPK and PUK which began last May has come to a halt since last month, but there is no evidence that they have yet managed to reach an agreement to give up hostility and establish a lasting peace.

Rabin: 'Terrorists' Can Enter To Amend Covenant

TA1407154594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that Israel will permit the PLO to convene the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Gaza to annul the Palestinian National Covenant clauses calling for the destruction of the State of Israel. Rabin says that Israel will permit even terrorists currently banned from the autonomy to enter the Gaza Strip. He added, however, that Israel will not permit some of them to remain. These remarks were apparently also directed at Mamduh Nawfal, who planned the Ma'alot massacre, although Rabin refused to discuss that specific issue.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] If the PLO chairman has decided to convene the PNC in order to carry out his commitment to amend the Palestinian National Covenant, then we will allow them to enter. Some will be permitted to stay, but others will not.

[Segal] If he convenes the PNC, will you allow all the members to attend the meeting?

[Rabin] Yes.

[Segal] Including Mamduh Nawfal?

[Rabin] There might be this or that individual not allowed in, but, in general, if that is the purpose of the meeting, it justifies our permitting them to enter the Gaza Strip. [end recording]

Rabin did not want to express his opinion about Peres' remarks that Israel recognized Syrian sovereignty of the Golan Heights several times in the past.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I do not want to go into that issue.

[Segal] Might it not be an attempt to prepare public opinion for some Israeli decision on this issue?

[Rabin] You draw your own conclusions. [end recording]

In reference to the talks with Syria, the prime minister said the gaps between us and Damascus are still very large, and it does not pay to build up high expectations prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's shuttle diplomacy next week.

Rabin was asked about remarks by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni that he knows al-Asad well, and that in his view, a declaration of principles will be signed between Israel and Syria within a year. The prime minister shrugged and said: I hope he is right.

Analysts Tell Cabinet Syria Ready for Talks Progress

TA1407132694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben, Eytan Rabin, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Nitzan Horowitz]

[Excerpts] Senior security analysts yesterday told the cabinet that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was anticipating the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in order to make progress in the peace process with Israel. [passage omitted]

The analysts told the cabinet that al-Asad was keenly aware of Syria's military inferiority versus Israel and was feeling isolated. He would therefore try to create an atmosphere conducive to progress in the peace negotiations; however, he would not soften his basic positions, primarily Syria's demand for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. According to an intelligence estimate submitted to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by the analysts, Syria's policy in the peace process was focused on its demand for an Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 border lines.

At the cabinet meeting, the analysts noted four reasons for al-Asad's sense of weakness and isolation:

—Syria has resigned itself to the disintegration of the framework of the peace talks in Washington and the existence of separate negotiation tracks between Israel and the Arab parties. Syria and Lebanon were left isolated following the relocation of the talks with the Palestinians and the Jordanians to the region. The Syrians know that the United States supports Israel's position.

—Syria was surprised by the accuracy of the Israeli Air Force strikes against the Hizballah base at 'Ayn Dardarah [placename as published] and the kidnapping of Mustafa al-Dirani.

—The Syrians were worried by Israel's monitoring of their test launching of a Scud missile.

—Al-Asad has seen that the PLO and Jordan are determined to make progress in the negotiations with Israel without waiting for Syria. The analysts asserted that Syria would not try to do anything to obstruct negotiations between Jordan and Israel beyond voicing its dissatisfaction. At the same time, however, Jordan's King Husayn was sending messages aimed at calming the Syrians, according to which he would not rush to sign a peace treaty with Israel.

Other assessments were also heard at yesterday's cabinet session. These assessments contended that al-Asad would try to act tough in the talks because he was angry about the progress made on the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks. According to this estimate, al-Asad still adhered to his strategic decision to opt for peace, but would attempt to show that he was in no hurry to move

forward since time was in his favor and Israel would continue to draw closer to Syria's positions.

Senior political sources said yesterday that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin would not present new proposals to Christopher. The sources said that Rabin was waiting to hear the results of Christopher's meetings in Damascus.

European officials who are close to the Syrian leadership claim that in light of the impending talks between Jordan and Israel and the successful implementation of Palestinian autonomy, Syria is totally isolated. The officials believe that this situation may impel Damascus to undermine peace contacts between Israel and other Arab states.

A French official said that al-Asad should not be left out of the picture, since Syria had proved in the past its ability to cause many difficulties until it was included in the process with its interests taken into consideration.

Unofficially, senior European officials opined that in the months which have passed since the signing of the Declaration of Principles with the PLO, many opportunities have been missed on the Syrian track. French sources said that the enthusiasm which prevailed during September 1993 should have been used as a lever to reach a "comprehensive solution." The emphasis, however, was subsequently placed on the Palestinian-Israeli and later on the Jordanian-Israeli tracks, while the Syrian-Lebanese track was neglected. A French source stated that no comprehensive peace or resolution of the major security problems in the Middle East could ultimately be possible without first establishing peace with Syria. Only an arrangement with Syria, the source said, would make the policy of peace irreversible.

European officials also noted that there could be no serious progress with regard to the global aspects of the Arab-Israeli conflict, such as ending the Arab boycott, resolving water issues and so forth unless a peace agreement was reached with Syria. Officially speaking, European sources said that rapid progress must be made in the negotiations with Syria and Lebanon because a lack of peace contacts on this track, as compared to progress on other tracks, may push the Syrians to initiate a confrontation. In this regard, the European position corresponds to that espoused by Damascus, which stipulates that real peace with Israel will only be possible after resolving the differences on all tracks. [passage omitted]

Officials React To Peres Remarks on Golan Heights

Shahal Comments

TA1507065294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by Hayim Zissowitz; place not given—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning to Minister Moshe Shahal.

[Shahal] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] Let me ask you first of all as a jurist: Did the passing of the Golan Heights Law at the time not constitute a declaration of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights?

[Shahal] No. The answer is unequivocally no. There is a clear terminological distinction between the Golan Heights Law and the Basic Law: Jerusalem. The Golan Heights Law stipulates that Israeli law will apply there. Nothing at all is said about the question of sovereignty. As someone personally familiar with the occasion, I can attest that when the Golan Heights Law was brought before the Knesset, the late Menahem Begin had just been discharged from the hospital. He invited me to his residence as both Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres were abroad. At the time, I was chairman of the Labor Knesset faction. When we discussed the law and he tried to explain its wording, he made the distinction that in this law, Israel is not deciding anything for posterity but merely applying Israeli law, not sovereignty. Then Defense Minister Moshe Arens, speaking before the Knesset at the time, also indirectly addressed this matter when he said that passing the law would not preclude negotiations at the appropriate time. Arens also noted that what was done could be undone.

[Zissowitz] Let us move on to the political side of things. Is it wise to make a statement recognizing Syria's sovereignty while Damascus, for its part, has not made any goodwill gestures or shown any readiness to reach a compromise with Israel?

[Shahal] Look, I do not want to evaluate the wisdom of statements made by the foreign minister. I assume he had a good reason to make these statements or he may perhaps have been expressing his own personal position. He definitely had a reason. As for the issue itself, I believe that everyone realizes that if we want to talk peace with Syria, there is a problem with regard to the Golan Heights. As far as we are concerned, the Golan Heights was always a security question. It was never part of our heritage or of Eretz Yisra'el. It is purely a security issue. If Israel's security requirements are met in a comprehensive manner acceptable to us, I think that with regard to this matter, we will then have to examine the kind of peace Syria is offering and bring the issue before the people in a national referendum or appeal to the public. After we are clearly apprised of Syria's intentions and the nature of the peace it is offering, I believe it will be impossible to circumvent or avoid the fact that Syria is a major goal and factor in making peace in the Middle East, and if its intentions are true and also provide us with security arrangements, then no Israeli Government can afford to ignore reality.

[Zissowitz] I would like you to comment on another statement Foreign Minister Peres made yesterday. Jordan is Jordan, he said, and Palestine is Palestine. What exactly is Palestine?

[Shahal] Look, there have been some changes in the statements made by Israeli politicians. I must state frankly that four and a half years ago, immediately following the Gulf war, I was the first one to say that a Palestinian entity would be established. When Mr. Peres and Mr. Rabin asked me what I meant, I replied that in a certain situation and under certain conditions acceptable to us, a Palestinian entity in the form of a state could be established under conditions dictated by us. Anyone speaking about a confederation is also talking about a pact between two states. Although confederation may be a nicer term, it also entails the recognition of two entities, each of which has an independent political status. I believe that the foreign minister was referring to a situation in which there are two separate entities: one Jordanian and one Palestinian. Only time will tell what kind of links they will have with Israel.

[Zissowitz] Thank you, Police Minister Shahal.

MK's, Golan Settlers React

TA1507064294

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 15 July reports that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' statements with regard to the Golan Heights have elicited reactions from the leaders of the Third Path movement. Yehuda Har'el told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the Knesset members [MK's] belonging to the group would consider a withdrawal from the Golan Heights a reason to vote against the government. MK Gedalya Gal believes that Peres' remarks were also a convenient trial balloon for the prime minister. Gal called on his colleagues to refrain from making threats and reserve their heavy artillery for more difficult times."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 15 July carries a related report on reactions to Peres' statements, adding that "dovish Labor MK Hagay Merom said the remark proved that senior Labor members are coming to terms with the inevitability of a Palestinian state. He said Peres could be preparing the Israeli public for things to come. But Labor faction leader Eli Dayan said the remark was just a slip of a tongue." The report also notes that "Golan settlers have reacted sharply to Peres' remarks. Several pointed out that under Israeli law, passed by the Knesset, the Golan was under Israeli sovereignty."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 15 July reports that "Likud MK David Levi said that the government must react to statements Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh made in Gaza in which he asserts that the Palestinians will liberate all of Palestine and fly their flag from al-Aqsa Mosque. If the government does not respond, this will mean that it has abandoned the idea of territorial compromise and has totally capitulated. He also attacked Foreign Minister Peres' statements with regard to the Golan Heights and said that the government is behaving like a national receiver. Moledet MK Rehav'am Ze'evi said that Peres sounded like a minister from Damascus and not a member of the Israeli Government. Ze'evi said that Labor should reexamine its loyalty to Israel's interests."

Rabin, Malaysian Leaders Hold 'Secret' Meeting

TA1407180494 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] A breakthrough in relations between Israel and Malaysia in Southeast Asia, a Muslim country with a population of nearly 20 million inhabitants: Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a secret meeting a few days ago with Malaysian leaders, including ministers. The meeting took place in Paris, at the hotel where Rabin and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamed were staying at the time. Our political correspondent 'Imanuel Rosen has learned that the meeting took place with the knowledge and blessing of the Malaysian prime minister.

Rabin on PLO's Knowledge of Arad Whereabouts

TA1507084594 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last night that captive navigator Ron Arad is being held by Lebanese and Iranian elements over whom the PLO has very limited influence. Rabin also said he will insist that 'Arafat fulfill his promise to bring clear information about the three Israeli servicemen who have been missing since the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub. Our correspondent Avi Lifshitz spoke with the prime minister yesterday:

[Begin recording] [Lifshitz] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stressed last night that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's ability to assist Israel in solving the disappearance of navigator Ron Arad is relatively limited.

[Rabin] Ron Arad is being held by either Iranian or Lebanese elements over whom 'Arafat has perhaps even less influence than we do.

[Lifshitz] Rabin said that the PLO is partially responsible for the fate of the three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers missing since the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub: Yehuda Katz, Zekharya Baumel, and Tzvi Feldman. Israel is still waiting for 'Arafat to honor his commitment to reveal additional information on the three MIA's.

[Rabin] They are responsible, and PLO Chairman 'Arafat also has a degree of responsibility to me to come up with clear information about the missing soldiers from the battle of al-Sultan Ya'qub, and I will insist that we receive this information.

[Lifshitz] As for Rahamim Alshaykh and Yosef Fink, who were kidnapped in Lebanon, Rabin noted that their

deaths had been confirmed by the chief Army chaplain. Rabin said that the chaplain had made this confirmation on the basis of documents brought to Israel by Giandomenico Picco, the former international emissary on the MIA's affair. The prime minister clarified yesterday that Hizballah had been responsible for the capture of Alshaykh and Fink. [end recording]

First Algerian Parliamentarian To Visit 'Next Week'

TA1407153794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The Algerian parliamentarian who will visit Israel next week, (Mahdi 'Abbas Alalo), says that his visit is aimed at paving the road for normalizing relations between Algeria and Israel. He also intends to tell the Israeli people the truth about the situation in Algeria. Despite the Muslim radicals, the Algerian people are lovers of democracy and support freedom of speech. (Alalo) said this in an interview with Qol Yisra'el's Foreign Affairs newsreel. He is the leader of one of Algeria's parties which is a member of the bloc of black parties, (Herut), and an attempt to assassinate him was carried out a few months ago.

Majority Supports Using Army Against Lawbreakers

TA1507103794 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 15 Jul 94 p 1

[Public opinion poll by the Dahaf Institute]

[Text] Question: Do you think the government should or should not use the Army against Jews violating law and order in the territories in any of the following cases? The findings are quoted in percentage points.

	Use It	Not Use It	Did Not Reply
Squatting in empty apartments	58	40	2
Blocking roads in protest	56	41	3
Damaging Arab property	63	35	2

The poll was conducted on 12 and 13 July among 505 respondents, who constitute a representative sample of Israel's adult population. The maximum margin of error is 4 percent.

King Reportedly Links Rabin Talks, U.S. Aid

JN1507105894 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] A western diplomatic source in Amman has said Jordan's King Husayn has expressed his readiness to advance the date of his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin if he obtains U.S. guarantees about the aid Washington promised to extend to his country. The source said the king will receive written confirmation in this regard from U.S. President Bill Clinton within the next 48 hours.

In another development, an official Israeli delegation has left for Jordan for the first time to prepare for the bilateral talks, which will begin on Monday. This was announced by the Israeli Foreign Ministry, which added that the delegation will draw up the details of the anticipated meeting in Jordan on 20 July between Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Jordanian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Jordanian-Israeli talks are expected on Sunday shortly before the official inauguration of bilateral talks on Monday.

Al-Mu'ashshir on Differences With Israel on Talks

JN1407173394 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Excerpts] Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, held a news conference today. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said there are Jordanian-Israeli differences regarding the duration of the negotiations. While the Israeli side prefers one-day negotiations, he said, the Jordanian side insists that the negotiations be held on Monday and Tuesday. He said this is in order to emphasize the importance of the bilateral negotiations, for they deal with issues related to Jordanian sovereignty. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir added that Jordan insists that there be an interval between the bilateral negotiations and the three-way Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli meeting, which will be held in the Dead Sea Hotel on Wednesday, and which will comprise Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister and foreign minister; Warren Christopher, U.S. secretary of state; and Shim'on Peres, Israeli foreign minister.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir noted that while the bilateral talks will deal with major issues related to Jordanian sovereignty, the tripartite meeting will deal with issues related to future economic cooperation. He said the Israeli side demands that the two meetings be linked, so that the bilateral talks be moved after their first day to the Dead Sea area, where they would coincide for a while with the Jordanian-U.S.-Israeli talks. Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that Israel's insistence on linking the two meetings is aimed at belittling the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli negotiations and attaching importance to the three-way talks. However, he said, Jordan insists that useful and in-depth bilateral negotiations be held, and that they deal with Jordanian sovereignty rights within the framework of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

Regarding the media coverage arrangements of this event, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said that a tent that can accommodate about 400 journalists has been set up on the Jordanian side. He said the tent is equipped with means of telecommunications to enable the journalists to convey their news reports and television dispatches from the site of negotiations directly.

On Willingness To Sign 'Partial Agreements'

JN1407195994 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 14 Jul 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Jordan said it would not sign a peace treaty with Israel until conditions for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East are met.

Jordanian delegation spokesman Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said Jordan would sign partial agreements with Israel on the issues they might agree upon, but that a full treaty depended on a comprehensive solution. He told the "News at Ten" that next week's talks on the Jordanian-Israeli border would establish Jordan's sovereign territorial and water rights.

[Begin recording] [Al-Mu'ashshir] The bilateral talks are very important for Jordan because we have agreed with Israel on establishing commissions to discuss what we call the rights issues. These are our borders, our occupied territories, and our rightful water share. So these commissions in the bilateral negotiations will focus only on these issues. We feel that this is a very good precedent because Israel, for the first time, negotiating with an Arab country, has agreed to the principle of discussing and resolving territorial disputes before moving to other issues. In the trilateral meetings, of course, these are negotiations of a different nature. They're not even called negotiations. These are meetings with a third side, which is the American side, in which we will discuss economic cooperation in the aftermath of a peace settlement.

[Correspondent Maha al-Sha'ir] Going back to the bilateral talks, if an agreement is finally reached, will Jordan sign this?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Yes, Jordan has repeatedly said that we are more than ready to sign partial agreements, but we are not ready to sign a final peace treaty between us and Israel until such a time when we have resolved all the issues on the agenda with Israel, including the issue, of course, of a comprehensive settlement.

[Al-Sha'ir] Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, this is the first meeting to be held on Arab soil between Israelis and an Arab party. What does this mean?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Well, it's the first meeting to be held between Israel and Jordan on, actually, the borders. This is a new phase in the negotiations. We feel that the nature of the negotiations, the nature of the issues involved, particularly the border issue, requires that these meetings be held on the ground. And we are very hopeful that from now on we will enter into serious negotiations to, finally, demarcate the Jordanian borders and to, finally, also distribute the water between us and Israel in an equitable manner. [end recording]

On Media Support for Bilateral Talks

JN1407145794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, official spokesman for the Jordanian delegation to the peace talks, held a news conference today. He spoke about measures concerning media coverage of the next round of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, which will begin in Wadi al-'Arabah on Monday [18 July]. He also spoke about media coverage of the meetings of the tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. committee to be held later in the Dead Sea area.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said a press center will be located in the Holiday Inn Hotel in al-'Aqabah, technically equipped to secure media coverage for the entire world, and that news conferences will be held in the site of the negotiations. He added that adequate, organized transportation will be provided for journalists from al-'Aqabah to the site of bilateral negotiations 13 km north of al-'Aqabah.

On the agenda of the negotiations, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir told our correspondent Muhammad al-Hajaya:

[Begin al-Mu'ashshir recording] The bilateral conference will begin on 18 July. The objective of the conference, as agreed in Washington, is to discuss Jordanian sovereignty rights. Particularly, three working groups will meet to discuss security, border, and territory issues. There is a security group, a border and territory group, and third group concerning water, the environment, and energy. After the bilateral meetings, which will held approximately 13 km north of al-'Aqabah, tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-U.S. meetings will be held at the Dead Sea in the presence of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and His Excellency [Prime Minister] 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali in his capacity as the foreign minister. Afterward, the negotiations will resume at al-'Aqabah after the end of the tripartite talks. [end al-Mu'ashshir recording]

Al-'Anani Chairs Meeting on Talks Preparation

JN1407165194 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, minister of information and minister of state for cabinet affairs, today presided over a meeting at the Foreign Ministry, attended by several members of the Jordanian side to the bilateral Jordanian-Israeli negotiations, due to open next Monday [18 July] on the joint Jordanian-Israeli border, north of the city of al-'Aqabah.

During the meeting, Dr. al-'Anani said: We are about to embark on a major process that is in line with His Majesty King Husayn's statement that we are in a peace battle. We are practicing this on the ground in a very clear manner to regain Jordan's basic rights so it can exercise its unequivocal sovereignty over territory and water and make the necessary security arrangements to exercise its rights.

Dr. al-'Anani added: We have prepared the necessary papers, documents, and data for the negotiating process. He pointed out that intensive efforts are under way to implement all these matters so we can live up to the level of expectations of His Majesty King Husayn and our people.

Dr. al-'Anani said: We can prove to the whole world that we are doing an honorable and excellent thing. He expressed appreciation for all people who are making the necessary arrangements. He explained the amount of effort required to prepare for these negotiations, despite the short time available.

'Absolute Support' Voiced for King's Peace Policy

JN1407153594 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Popular, party, unionist, and professional figures of various shades and trends have continued to express their absolute support and backing for His Majesty King Husayn's historic speech during his meeting with the members of the Council of Ministers and the House of Representatives last Saturday [9 July].

The Royal Hashemite Court has received more cables addressed to his majesty the king. The senders of those cables expressed their absolute support for the wise Hashemite leadership and his majesty's policy in going ahead to regain Jordan's sovereignty rights to its territory and water and establish a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace that restores rights to their owners and lays the foundations of stability in the region.

The cable senders also blessed his majesty's efforts toward establishing the foundations of a just, comprehensive, and durable peace in the region. They said: We were deeply moved by the characteristic frankness in your majesty's speech to your people and nation about the conditions and pressures to which Jordan is being subjected. Hence, we declare our absolute support for any steps you might embark on to enhance Jordan's status, progress, and national unity.

PLO's Quray' on Trade Pact, Self-Rule Finances

JN1507085994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Jul 94 pp 1, 27

[By 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] Mr. Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', member of the Palestinian National Authority in the self-rule area, the director general of the PLO's Economic Department, and a major architect of the Oslo agreement, says the action program based on the Jordanian-Palestinian accord must be signed immediately and as soon as possible after the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders meet at the highest levels.

Abu-'Ala' was speaking to AL-RA'Y before leaving Amman for the self-rule area across the King Husayn Bridge yesterday. The date for the talks to sign the action program for the Jordanian- Palestinian accord is just days away, Abu-'Ala' indicated.

According to Palestinain sources speaking to AL-RA'Y, Mr. Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, head of the PLO's Political Department, is to begin a visit to Damascus early next week. He will then likely come to Amman to sign the action program for the Jordanian-Palestinian accord.

Quray' sees no difference of perspectives between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. He attributed the delay in the signing to Palestinian preoccupation with self-rule arrangements and other commitments.

He called on the private sectors on both sides to boost the economic agreement.

Quray' said the idea of the economic conference scheduled to convene in Jerusalem came from some 500 entrepreneurs and firms to invigorate the Palestinian economy through constructive dialogue.

He called his talks with the U.S. Administration and the World Bank positive and constructive. He pointed out that an agreement was reached under which the World Bank will act as secretary for the donor nations. Donor nations will be approached to close the financial deficit in the self-rule area during the coming months, pending the formation of a tax collecting authority in the territory.

He said that Palestinians have pressing needs and appealed for financial backing, and noted that the donor nations have agreed to extend $2.4 billion to the self-rule area.

Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen have to begin cooperation, since legislation on both sides regards commercial exchanges between Palestine and Jordan as internal trade, Abu-'Ala' said.

Asked about the plan for an Israeli withdrawal from Nabulus and Ramallah and other West Bank areas, Ahmad Quray' said this should take place immediately. He said the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord is a little behindhand and noted that the Gaza-Jericho accord calls for a total Israeli pullout from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Abu-'Ala' emphasized that, with the exception of Jerusalem and the refugees, which will wait for final status negotiations, the Gaza-Jericho accord addresses all issues in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, especially the withdrawal of the Israeli military.

Nothing should stand in the way of an Israeli pullout from densely populated centers in the West Bank to lay the groundwork for elections.

It is natural that Palestinian security forces take over security functions upon the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the West Bank's cities and villages, according to Quray'.

Abu-'Ala', A Fatah Central Committee member, said: The Palestinian-Israeli accord calls for the withdrawal and redeployment of the israeli troops to be completed before the interim status is over.

Abu-'Ala' said that the population of Jerusalem will vote in the elections for a Palestinian legislative council. Such particiaption, he added, is politically significant for negotiating the city's final status.

The elections are supposed to be held in October, 1994, Abu-'Ala' said, emphasizing the relevance of the polls for the lives of the Palestinian people. He added that the Palestinain-Israeli accord stipulates holding elections for a local council with legislative and executive powers.

Quray' rejected Israeli restrictions on the movement of members of the Palestinian National Authority to the areas under its control as a breach of the Palestinian-Israeli accord.

Parties, Unions Appeal to UN To End Iraq Embargo

JN1507114494 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1531 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Amman, 14 Jul (INA)—Represenatives of Jordanian political parties and popular and professional and trade union organizations, along with a large crowd, today staged a one-hour sit-in in front of the UN mission in Jordan to protest the continuing sanctions on the people of Iraq.

In letters they sent to the UN secretary general through the UN representative in Amman, they said the sanctions, besides lacking any legitimate grounds, are unjustifiable and at odds with all international conventions and the most basic human rights.

Dr. Kamal Nasir, head of the professional unions council, and president of the Jordanian lawyers association, said in his memorandum: Retention of the sanctions even after Iraq has met all the obligations mandated by UN resolutions is obnoxious and unjustifiable.

He appealed to the UN secretary general and all peace- and freedom-loving forces to work vigorously and without delay to get the sanctions lifted. Nasir held the United Nations responsible for the suffering the people of Iraq are having to endure because of the sanctions.

He said that deaths among Iraq's children and sick due to an acute shortage of food and medicine amount to a capital crime calculated to decimate an entire people. It is a global crime that the entire community of nations condemns, Nasir's message said.

Legislator Hamzah Mansur, rapporteur for a follow-up committee of Jordanian political parties, said in a similar memorandum: We the representatives of the Jordanian political parties and a number of Parliament deputies, who are staging a sit-in in front of the UN officies in Amman, appeal to the UN chief to make every effort toward lifting the four-year-old sanctions.

Mansur stressed that the unjust sanctions no longer have any justification, now that Iraq has met the international obligations imposed on it. The sanctions have hurt the Iraqi people and Jordan's economy due to the imperialist blockade of the Port of al- 'Aqabah.

Salim al-Qudah, a lawyer, and secretary to the Jordanian public committee in Irbid in support of Iraq, in a memorandum to the president and members of the Security Council, called for the sanctions to be removed, now that all the justifications for keeping them are not there.

The peoples of the civilized world look to your council for action over the violation of the Iraqi individual's right to have access to food and medicine and a decent life. He blamed certain world powers of attempting to dominate the world and control the fate of other nations contrary to international law and the UN Charter.

Keeping the sanctions in place is meant by imperialist forces to make of the Iraqi people an example for others who may contemplate standing up to world Zionist schemes to subjugate them.

Al-Qudah expressed the hope that the Security Council will move to remove the sanctions to enable Iraq to resume oil exports. He also called for Iraqi assets abroad to be released so that it can purchase food and medicine. The message urged an end to the air exclusion zone so that Iraq may return, as it had always been, as an effective player in the international arena.

Yemeni Planning Minister: Country 'Back to Normal'

JN1407123294 Amman THE STAR in English 14 Jul 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Elizabeth Ommachen]

[Text] "Propaganda" from international aid agencies and news sources has distorted the truth about Yemen's recovery in the wake of the nine-week civil war, according to Yemeni Planning Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani.

"It was a modern war between armies—not street to street or window to window (combat)," al-Iryani told THE STAR Monday, shortly before delivering a message of appreciation to His majesty King Husayn for Jordan's support of unity in Yemen. "The war was between tanks and artillery, and there was not much civilian devastation at all."

Dr al-Iryani downplayed the damage to population centers and infrastructures as "minimal," claiming that war-ravaged Yemen has returned to "normal."

"Water has been restored to Aden, and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) is handling the distribution of food," he said. "Several medical teams moved to Aden to extend assistance, and many of those wounded have been moved to Ta'izz and al-Hudaydah. The situation is normalcy."

However, recent reports from Yemen paint a different picture:

News agencies in Yemen reported that fresh water had not been restored in Aden. Reports also said both soldiers and civilians looted a warehouse stocked with goods from the European Community and the WFP.

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in Yemen reported mounting concern for psychologicaly traumalized Yemeni children last week.

In a 23 June Special Appeal to Yemen, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that dozens of civilians were being killed and injured each day and tens of thousands had been displaced while fleeing combat zones.

Al-Iryani dismissed these reports.

"There was propaganda," al-Iryani said. "The Red Cross exaggerated the civilian problems inside Aden. It was perhaps a preventative exaggeration, if you will."

He estimated that displaced civilians "do not exceed a couple of thousand. And the WFP and UNICEF are taking care of them."

Al-Iryani also said the Republic of Yemen is committed to granting "a full and comprehensive amnesty" to all Southern secessionists, including former Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who fled to Oman after the fall of Aden last week.

Meanwhile in Yemen, at least two southern officials who did not flee Aden were captured and killed by northern troops, according to reports from Western diplomats and news agencies on Monday.

The reports stated that northern soldiers captured and shot Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, a member of the secessionist ruling council and a former governor of Aden, and set fire to Salih 'Abdallah al- Muthanna, a former transport minister in the south's pre-1990 unification government.

"There are no more political prisoners," al-Iryani said. "Amnesty International is in Sanaa' and Aden. Middle

East Watch, the American human rights organization, will be in Yemen next week."

Tawfiq Abu-Bakr, secretary-general of Amnesty International in Jordan, could not confirm al-Iryani's statements, but said amnesty's investigations in Yemen were continuing.

"There will be no prosecution of Southern leaders," al-Iryani said. "Legally, (the secessionists who fled Aden) have been pardoned, but it is up to them how they judge the situation."

Al-Iryani called the south's secessionist movement "simply a mutiny in the army."

He said the Republic of Yemen "will integrate the army" to circumvent any future uprising.

"I'm sure the army now will be away from politics, because it was drawn into this political struggle by the secessionists," al-Iryani said. "They (southern leaders) have no more control."

However, exiled secessionists told news agencies in Yemen this week that they would continue the struggle for a democratic regime in the south without al-Bid's leadership. According to officials in Oman, al-Bid promised to stay out of politics in Oman and elsewhere, news reports say.

A southern deputy told AFP this week that al-Bid's Yemen Socialist Party could convene in Sanaa' soon to elect a new leader.

Al-Iryani said Monday that Yemen favors open lines of communication between political parties.

"Perhaps, we'll have a dialogue committee," al-Iryani said "We deal with political institutions, not individuals. No one is banned from having a political party, but to be part of the government is another story."

To launch its recovery after war, al-Iryani said Yemen will focus on strengthening its economy and reaffirming its role in international community.

He stressed that Yemen intends to cooperate fully with other states in the region and rebuild relations with Saudi Arabia, which openly supported the southern forces during the war.

"The president has sent a message to King Fahd suggesting normalization and overcoming any difficulties," he said. "That chapter, whatever it was, should be closed. But it's up to them."

Editorial Says Pragmatism is Answer for Peace

JN1407131094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Jul 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Pragmatism is the Answer"]

[Text] Statements being made by Israeli politicians these days could explain why it is necessary for Jordan to pursue the path of peace. In the course of the past two days, prominent leaders from Israel's two political parties have made contradicting statements regarding a peace treaty with Jordan. On the one hand the hawkish Likud leader Arik Sharon, protesting the labour-led government moves to end its conflict with Jordan, described Jordan as Palestine and blasted the government of wanting to settle borders with the Kingdom. Answering Sharon, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Jordan was not Palestine and his country had no interest in destabilising the Kingdom. Peres even went further by acknowledging Jordan's special religious rule over Jerusalem's holy shrines.

The Israeli Labour Party with its coalition partners, who have a mandate from the Israeli people to make peace with their Arab neighbours, have been showing increasing willingness to conclude an agreement that would meet important Arab demands. It is therefore in the interest of both parties that the momentum created by the ongoing peace process be maintained and enhanced. The pronouncements that had been made and are still being made and are still being made by the Labour Party leaders, especially by the Peres faction, indicate that the Israeli leadership realises now more than ever that Arab grievances are genuine, that the Arabs want peace, and, above all, that Isael has to address the Arabs' demands if it wants to live in lasting peace and be accepted as a partner in the region. The Likud leaders meanwhile will continue to maintain that the peace process as handled by the incumbent government will lead to the destruction of the Jewish state.

In the recent exchange between the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Likud leaders, Rabin charged that the Israeli right was bent on using violence to derail the peace effort and to bring down his government. Likud countered that Rabin's charges were unfounded. The Likud maintains that it will abide by whatever deals the government in office will reach, but that it will not continue to give "concessions" to the Palestinians, Syria, Lebanon or Jordan.

Now, while labour is in office, it is time for Jordan, and the other Arab states, to do their utmost for a settlement. If Likud is returned to power before a peace formula is reached it will be very difficult to imagine how a war can be avoided in the future. A continuous source of instability would certainly be the Israeli right's insistence on the "Jordan is Palestine" scenario and the transfer of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza to the East Bank.

Contrary to many arguments, Jordan and the rest of the Arabs stand to gain, not lose, from giving the present peace process the best shot possible.

Further on Bill Permitting News Broadcasts

Bill Detailed

NC1407123494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The Chamber of Deputies today unanimously approved 10 bills, the most significant of which was the one submitted by Deputy Joseph Mughayzil to allow the audio-visual media to broadcast news and political programs without licenses until the media organization law is issued. [passage omitted]

Deputy Mughayzil's bill provides for the following:

An urgent one-article temporary bill, until enactment of the law regulating television and radio transmissions, enabling the audio-visual media institutions operating in Lebanon to transmit news and political programs.

This temporary arrangement does not arrogate to media institutions any acquired right of any kind.

- The media institutions must undertake the following commitments:
- To abide by the national accord document and the requirements of coexistence and national unity;
- To honor the freedom and democracy of media activity and its role, particularly in ensuring the expression of various opinions;
- To insure programs and material that will encourage patriotic education and maintain social peace, family ties, and public ethics;
- Not to transmit or carry anything that can stir up or instigate sectarian chauvinism or that can push society, particularly children, to physical or psychological violence, terrorism, or racial and religious discrimination;
- To report news and events objectively and respect the right of individuals and organizations to respond;
- To respect other people's literary and artistic rights.

The media institutions are prohibited from doing the following:

- Transmitting any news, program, picture, or film likely to undermine public peace or stir up sectarian chauvinism directly or indirectly;
- Instigating violence or harming public morals and order;
- Directly or indirectly attacking the principles of national accord, national unity, and the state's sovereignty and independence;
- Transmitting or broadcasting any insults, degradation, defamation, or lies against individuals or institutions;
- Being unobjective in news programs or failing to transmit events and news truthfully;
- Transmitting anything that could constitute a violation of other people's literary, artistic, and commercial ownership;
- Transmitting any economic subject or commentary liable to directly or indirectly influence the stability of the national currency;
- Profiting financially from anything not resulting from work directly or indirectly connected with the nature of their work.

Should an institution not abide by the provisions of the above paragraphs of this law, the provisions of the publications law will be applied against it.

This law will become effective as soon as it is published in the Official Gazette.

Al-Hirawi on Signing Conditions

NC1407145294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stressed that he will sign the Chamber of Deputies' decision pertaining to the media law if it guarantees national security constants and if it does not incite sectarianism.

President al-Hirawi reiterated that Lebanon will be the last country to sign the peace agreement. He said talk of Israel's withdrawal within six months is acceptable in principle.

Commenting on remarks made by former President Amin al-Jumayyil, President al-Hirawi said: We are trying to eliminate the traces of his mistakes.

President al-Hirawi's remarks came during his meeting today with the Editors' Association Council led by doyen Milhim Karam.

Al-Hirawi on Bill, Peace

NC1407174594 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Statement by Editors Doyen Milhim Karam following a meeting with President Ilyas al-Hirawi at B'abda Palace on 14 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In our meeting with his excellency the president, as in all our meetings with him, we reviewed media affairs and the issue of freedoms, which his excellency respects and safeguards. We also discussed topical affairs. As usual his excellency was extremely frank about the many issues we raised. He said: We will not attack the Resistance, because it is committing a legitimate act, defending its land and sovereignty. But if there is any encroachment on security, peace, and stability, God forbid, then we have a well-organized patriotic Army to prevent this.

His excellency said he believed that Lebanon will not sign [a peace deal with Israel] unless particular conditions are met. He said: Lebanon will sign along with Syria and will be the last party to sign. It will not send its foreign minister to meet [Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on] Peres. A deadline must be set—said to be six months, the maximum period—during which a full

[Israeli] withdrawal is achieved. This principle is acceptable; anything outside this framework is categorically rejected. The president said: We are sick and tired of attempts to take the issue from one labyrinth to another and from one procrastination to another and of the practice of delaying tactics that could go on for years; we have put this behind us.

Concerning the case of Ghassan Tuma [a Lebanese Forces official indicted in the Sayyidat al-Najat Church bombing and assassination cases], his excellency said that the Foreign Ministry, the Justice Ministry, and the concerned agencies have not applied for Tuma's extradition, because Lebanon has no sufficient information about his whereabouts. Some say he is in Yugoslavia, others in Canada, others in France, and others in the United States. We have written to the Australian and Canadian Governments requesting the extradition of some of those indicted. There are discussions on this and we will receive the final answer soon. [passage omitted]

His excellency said he will sign the media law or the decision made by the Chamber of Deputies today if the text is in line with constant principles, that is, if it does not harm state security, incite sectarian sedition, or stir up terrorism. The president said he will fully defend the right to freedom, free expression, and opposition. [passage omitted]

Bill Sets 'Serious Precedent'

NC1407163394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] In the first ministerial reaction to the Chamber of Deputies' approval of the media law today, Transport Minister 'Umar Misqawi said the step sets a serious precedent of intervention in the mechanism of the executive power. It contradicts the Constitution, especially as the law stipulates that every transmission, political or nonpolitical, must first be licensed, he said. He said the law will leave room, not only for the radios and televisions emerging during this period, but also for every citizen or establishment to try to impose their presence again—if they can. If there is a political position against the government, Misqawi said, then the government should be confronted by a political measure, not a legislative one.

Prime Minister al-Hariri Reportedly Indisposed

NC1407135194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has canceled all his appointments for the day and is resting because he is indisposed. Ministers, deputies, and key figures visited the prime minister at his home in Quraytim.

Economic Cooperation Agreement Signed With Russia

NC1407193794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] An agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the Russian Federation and the Lebanese Government was initialed at the Economy and Trade Ministry at 1000 today. The signing ceremony was attended by Minister Hagop Demerdjian. The agreement was signed for the Russian side by Kyryanov Yuriy, deputy chief of the first department at the Russian Foreign Economic Relations Ministry, and for the Lebanese side by Muhammad Jawad al-Amin, director general of the Economy and Trade Ministry. Al-Amin said the agreement will boost bilateral cooperation and may be followed by other agreements in the economic, cultural, and other areas.

Radio: 'Frank' Israeli Withdrawal Statement Needed

JN1407172594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1139 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The U.S. secretary of state will arrive in the region on a new tour to reactivate the peace process. The peace process is stumbling because of Israel, which has paved the way for the chief U.S. diplomat's tour in keeping with the familiar Israeli way. Over the past few weeks and days, Israeli guns and warplanes have shelled and bombed Lebanese citizens, their houses and their property, inflicting new human losses on them.

Clearly, the Israeli way has not changed. The ordinary citizen in Lebanon and Syria now believes Israeli artillery roars fiercely every time a new tour by the U.S. secretary of state is announced. It is worth mentioning that this citizen, who really wants a just and comprehensive peace, is the same citizen who stands fast courageously, adhering to his right and his land, and to deterring occupation forces from Arab territories, which have been occupied since 5 June 1967. Israel knows full well this citizen will never accept an alternative to this, supported by the international legitimacy on which the U.S. initiative is based.

The peace process moved ahead after Syria agreed to it. Based on this, Syria has welcomed U.S. officials and clearly said that those who obstruct peace are the Israelis, because they reject the bases of peace and the objective set for the entire peace process. If the U.S. sponsor still insists on its initiative, and there is no reason to believe otherwise, then the truth is that its problem is with the intransigent Israeli side, which obstructs peace prospects and evades peace requirements. This is because Syria, unhesitatingly, adheres to its just constants, which are exactly the constants of international legitimacy as well as the constants of the declared principles.

If Israel expects that what it calls breakthroughs on the Arab front in Gaza and Jericho, and what followed them, are really breakthroughs, then it will commit another folly, because what has thus far taken place will not achieve true peace. It does not lay the foundation for the expected just peace. Anyone who wants peace must respect its bases, charter, and mechanisms. The ball is in the Israeli court. Israel is the side that should frankly declare that it will withdraw from the Golan and all occupied Arab territories. This is because it is the occupier. It is the side that should provide security to the other parties, especially since it is the aggressor. The Americans know this, as well as the United Nations and the international community. Israel's policy is evasion, intimidation, and claims. This is no use to it, considering that it knows full well that Syria will never relinquish an iota of its rights and will never budge an inch on its rights and those of the Arabs, which are recognized by international legitimacy. If Israel wants peace to move ahead, then it is the party that is particularly responsible for removing the obstacles it placed in its way.

If Israel receives Warren Christopher's expected tour of the region with shelling and terror in southern Lebanon, so the tour takes place in a tense atmosphere, then this means it still insists on the policy of terrorism and blackmail which will never allow the peace process to proceed normally.

The dues of peace will eventually be paid, and those who are required to do so are the Israeli occupiers. If they want Christopher's tour to succeed, then they are basically responsible for removing the obstacles placed before the U.S. secretary's mission. The U.S. secretary of state knows full well that if the peace process fails, then Israel is the cause. He also realizes that if the peace process succeeds, then Damascus is the cause.

The success of the peace process, as viewed by Syria, the UN resolutions, and the bases of the U.S. initiative, hinges on a frank Israeli declaration that it will withdraw to the pre-4 June [1967] border as an indispensable step toward making progress on the road to peace. Israel realizes that any peace, between two parties or more, will continue to be incomplete and fragile, will have no future, will not be just, comprehensive, and lasting, and will never take place, without Syria.

Christopher's Tour, Need To Break 'Pattern' Viewed

JN1507075894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jul 94

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH, commenting on the upcoming Middle East trip by the U.S. secretary of state, writes: It is hoped Secretary Christopher's next tour will break the pattern of its predecessors. How much or little Christopher will be able to effect a shift in Israel's position on true peace will make or break his mission. The international community is now fully convinced of Israel's responsibility for the logjam in the peace process.

Syria's yearnings for peace and its continued cooperation with the United States to promote the peace process have been underlined by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in all his sessions with U.S. officials, including President Clinton. However, the paper goes on, the peace process continues to come up against the brick wall of Israel's rejectionism, and Rabin keeps saying he is less than convinced of the usefulness of peace conferences—an unveiled reference to the Madrid conference. Rabin has also been underscoring separate deals that have proved and been universally recognized to be less than the right formula to obtain peace.

Syria works for the kind of peace under which rights are assured as provided for in UN resolutions and emphasized by the Geneva summit between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton. Having taken the initiative to propel the peace process forward, Syria has consistently shown itself to be opposed to compromising on core issues. To quote President al-Asad, we want a comprehensive

peace, since a less than comprehensive peace does not count as real peace. The Americans have been saying they want a comprehensive peace of which they are now convinced, AL-THAWRAH concludes.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH notes that all international good offices and American efforts being invested in a potential settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict have run into Israel's stubborness. The obstacles placed by Israel in the path of the peace process are responsible for all the reverses that have hit the peace process on all the tracks and the standoff at the bilateral talks in Washington. Israel, nevertheless, attempts to mislead world opinion into thinking the Palestinian track has moved forward with the signing of the Oslo and self-rule agreement. Throughout two and a half years, the Americans have moved to fulfill a commitment made by the former and incumbent U.S. Administrations to work for a just and comprehensive peace in the region based on UN Security Council resolutions.

The paper calls on the U.S. Administration to quit the role of mailman and pursuing compromise solutions removed from the substance of peace and the Madrid formula. AL-THAWRAH urges the United States to advance the implementation of UN resolutions. We in Syria have done everything possible to advance the American initiaitive; it is now up to Israel to show good faith and be bound by the principles on which the peace process was launched, because Syria will not budge an inch from its national and pan-Arab parameters, AL-THAWRAH concludes.

Press Discusses Upcoming Christopher Visit

JN1407152394 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Press review]

[Text] Today, the papers comment on the peace process in light of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's approaching visit to the region.

AL-BA'TH says: Christopher's return to the region, raising once again the issues related to the peace process, demonstrates that the desired comprehensive settlement has not been achieved and that genuine peace is still absent from the region. It demonstrates that what Israel and others are trying to promote—that peace has been established and the conflict has ended with a series of partial and separate solutions—is not true. This is refuted by reality, world unanimity, and the U.S. insistence that it is impossible to achieve a comprehensive and lasting settlement in the Middle East without Syria.

The paper adds: Christopher knows there is no problem between Syria and the United States over the peace process, in accordance with the principles on which it was based and its set objectives. He knows Syria was never an obstacle to peace and that the obstacles have always been put in place by the Tel Aviv rulers.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Christopher also knows the Israeli rejection of the principles of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy, which call on Israel to withdraw completely to the 4 June 1967 borders, is the insurmountable obstacle that prevents any progress in the peace process. The fate of the peace process hinges on the continuation of this rejection, which may leave the region open to every dangerous possibility.

The paper stresses that Syria does not demand from the peace process more than what is stipulated by the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles of the peace process agreed upon with the United States and the parties concerned. It demands the return of the occupied territories to their rightful owners because this is the core of the land-for-peace formula. It demands a comprehensive solution because a comprehensive solution will end tension, the threat of war, and the instability Israel has created in the region. It demands nothing more than placing the horse before the cart so the peace process can move on the basis of Israel's acceptance of the principles of this process, particularly withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN says: At every opportunity, Israeli officials claim Syria has not offered enough for peace. In fact, what bothers them is not the insufficiency of what Syria offered for peace, but Syria's call for complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. This is especially true because Israeli officials are, in practice, planning to usurp at least part of the Golan Heights, like they did in the occupied Palestinian territories, when they confiscated Arab Jerusalem and annexed one-third of the West Bank to Jerusalem under the pretext of expanding their eternal capital.

The paper reviews the Israeli anti-peace policy and the maneuvers it adopts to achieve its objectives. It says: Since the start of the peace process, Israel has adopted the divide-and-rule policy. It made the Palestinian party leave the circle of Arab coordination for talks that were expected to be crowned by a lame agreement. Israel also expected to dictate its own terms on the Palestinian party, which emerged as the loser in its reckless adventure. The Oslo Agreement and its annexes gave the Palestinian party only mayoral power, while Israel spread its real power across substantial aspects of Palestinian life.

TISHRIN stresses that Israel only wants the kind of peace that realizes its expansionist schemes and opens the doors to its economic invasion. It does not want honorable peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and ensuring the supremacy of law. Instead, it seeks separate, deformed settlements to entrench its occupation of Arab territories and pave the way for its economic invasion.

The problem is that Israel's proposals were not echoed in Syria, which is determined to regain all the occupied territories and apply in full the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper concludes by saying: Syria will never relinquish a grain of its soil and sign a peace until Israel withdraws completely from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon and until all the Arab rights are guaranteed.

Under the headline "The Obvious Reality," AL-THAWRAH says: No observer can ignore the fact that just and comprehensive peace in this region cannot be achieved unless Israel announces its definite commitment to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, and unless it acknowledges the principle of complete withdrawal from all Arab territories, especially Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon. It is well known that only complete withdrawal can open the door to genuine, firm peace. Only this can guarantee the peace process will reach its objectives.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel is proposing partial solutions based on phased steps and limited withdrawals. These cannot make peace or guarantee security and stability in the region. Instead, they will entrench injustice, hegemony, and occupation, and foster ideas and repercussions that may lead to the creation of new factors of tension and explosion.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israel is still adhering to intransigent and inflexible positions devoid of the spirit and substance of the U.S. initiative and the concepts and formulas established in Madrid. It still thinks peace means usurping land and rights, and an open door for it to enter the Arab arena.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Everyone is now waiting for Christopher's tour to see if Israel will offer anything new to help move the peace process, or, at least, to disperse the climate of pessimism that surrounds it. But if we consider that Israel has not given any indication that it may change its position on the issue of complete and total withdrawal, and that it still insists on separate solutions, and that it is only offering some limited withdrawals from parts of the occupied Arab territories, we can clearly see indications of the fate that awaits Christopher's tour. This casts dark clouds of doubt over the future of the entire peace process.

Al-Zu'bi, al-Shar Meet Cypriot Party Leader

JN1307135994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] At 1200 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Dr. Vasos Lissaridhis, leader of the Cypriot Socialist Party, and his accompanying delegation. The talks dealt with relations between the two friendly countries, and issues of joint interest.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today also received Dr. Vasos Lissaridhis, leader of the Cypriot Socialist Party, and his accompanying delegation.

Muwaffaq Nassar, director of the West Europe Desk at the Foreign ministry, attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with the international situation, and the developments in the region, particularly in the peace process and the Cypriot issue.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

JN1407143794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Excerpts] A final round of party talks was held at the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP] National Command building today between the ASBP delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, ASBP assistant secretary general and the Cypriot Socialist Party led by its leader Dr. Vasos Lissaridhis.

During this round, the two sides completed discussion of the issues discussed during the first round of talks and issues of interest to the two friendly parties. The two sides' viewpoints were identical on various issues.

At the end of this round, the two sides signed a cooperation agreement between the two parties for the two next years. ASBP Assistant Secretary General Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar signed the agreement for the ASBP. Dr. Vasos Lissaridhis signed for the Cypriot Socialist Party. [passage omitted]

Dr. Lissaridhis and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus today after a three-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the ASBP National Command. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

ICO Secretary General Issues Statement on Peace

LD1407223794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 14 July—Hamid Al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] ended the first round of his Afghanistan peace initiative today.

During his visit to the region, he held intensive talks with leaders and representatives of the Afghan parties and a number of Afghan personalities, scholars, and intellectuals.

The wide-ranging talks focused on the need to find a conceptual framework for all sides by which a constructive dialogue between the Afghan parties could take place to reach peace and stability in Afghanistan.

A press statement issued today by the organization specified related procedures for this peaceful initiative between the Afghan parties, held under the auspices of the OIC and on the basis of a formula outlined by the secretary general.

While the OIC secretary general encouraged all peaceful initiatives on Afghanistan, he stressed the need to find an acceptable mechanism that appeals to all Afghan parties.

He recorded with satisfaction the existence of a clear recognition by all Afghan parties that there would not be any military solutions to problems that satisfied the legitimate expectations of the Afghan people.

The secretary general noticed that there was a large degree of consensus between the Afghan parties on procedural and core issues and on the ways and means capable of resolving the Aghan crisis.

The OIC communique indicated that there was also a general consensus on the need to find a preparatory mechanism to revive the peace process. It said that within this framework the secretary general's proposal to form a preparatory committee under the auspices of the OIC was welcomed. Many of the Afghan parties appointed their representatives to this preparatory committee while others agreed on principle and were also expected to appoint representatives.

It was the view of the secretary general that the proposed conceptual framework for the establishment of a preparatory committee to revive the peace process between the Afghan parties was an appropriate means of bringing together all the current peace efforts on Afghanistan.

He also took the view that there was a need for further efforts to develop mutual understanding between all of the Afghan sides on all of the issues related to finding the preparatory mechanism.

He explained that the necessary directives have been issued to the OIC representative for Afghan affairs to follow up the consultations between the Afghan sides on these issues.

He stressed the need to for all military operations to be halted so that the peace process would not be affected by tactical and marginal considerations. [passage omitted]

News Conference on Procedure for Election to Shura

LD1407212694 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] A law on procedure for election to the grand Islamic Shura was explained today at a press conference. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that Esteemed Dr. Abdol Hai Alahi, Secretary for the joint reconciliation shura of Afghanistan, explained to journalists the summary of this law and he answered questions on this subject. Esteemed Abdol Hai Alahi said the following to our correspondent:

[Begin Abdol Hai Alahi recording, in Dari] In the name of Almighty God; praise be to Mohammad, peace be upon him, and greetings to our dear listeners.

You know very well that the ongoing fighting in our country has caused many bitter disasters which shocks and upsets every human being with conscience. [Words indistinct] in the heat of fighting a number of our compatriots put a step forward and made certain proposals for reconciliation and have designed programs for the setting up of a new government. It was soon proved that the scattered activities cannot possibly overcome this major national difficulty and it was required that the scattered activities are to be coordinated, organized, and joint forces together seek a rational peaceful resolution for the setting up of a political system. For this purpose the joint reconciliatory association of Afghanistan with the participation of other reconciliatory foundations, was set up several months ago.

This then presented a rational formula for the resolution of issues after compiling, analyzing, and comparing all other proposals and various methods put forward for the solution of problems. The formula contains good points covering Islamic values, observing national and historical tradition of the people keeping in mind the accepted principles of international [words indistinct].

The association has been working since its creation and has set up various commissions. These commissions have accomplished various tasks in various dimensions, including the drafting and approval of various regulations and rules regarding the procedure for the setting up of a grand and comprehensive shura representing the people with the authority to decide, and the system of government which this shura introduces should be acceptable to the world's public.

Our commission, consisting of lawyers, ulema, and the Jehadi personalities, have envisaged in this law the method and circumstances for the convocation of such a shura and election of delegates and representatives. Furthermore, work is going on a draft law for disarming people. The draft laws consider the nature of election's supervision and how it can be done and how election can be supervised, for instance, by a UN or an ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] delegation if they come, so that an international guarantee can come in being which can attract the world's public opinion in favor of the election and the created political system. [end recording]

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent adds that this law is drafted in ten chapters and 45 articles and recently approved by the joint reconciliation association of Afghanistan.

This law recognizes the grand Islamic shura as the highest venue representing the will of the country's people having the power to appoint the country's leader for a specific period of time, with authority to elect members of a shura or parliament from amongst the grand Islamic shura's members, power to approve the constitution of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and to approve the law on collection of weapons and ammunition.

Regarding the composition of the grand Islamic shura, this law says that each district, city ward, capital of province with no ward, should elect each one [word indistinct] delegate. From each province in proportion to the population for each 20,000 people one delegate. From each Jehadi formation 10 delegates; 32 delegates from the country's ulema and 60 delegates from learned and intellectuals inside and outside the country, will be elected as members of the grand Islamic Shura. [as heard]

According to this law, an election for the grand Islamic shura will take place nationwide and completed within one week. The United Nations and ICO will be invited to send their competent representatives to Afghanistan in proportion to the need if the invitation is accepted. The detail of this press conference will be broadcast tonight from Radio Afghanistan after the Dari news bulletin.

India

Foreign Secretary on Diplomat Issue, Pakistan

Renews Offer for Code of Conduct Talks

BK1407164294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan, today renewed his offer to Pakistan for talks on implementing the diplomatic code of conduct. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, he however rejected the suggestion for discussions with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi. He said the Indian High Commission in Islamabad is an aggrieved party and the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi also claims to be one, so the talks should be held between the foreign offices of the two nations. He said his offer still stands and a discussion is essential because of the incident that has happened in both the capitals recently. Mr. Srinavasan, however, reiterated that India will abide by the code of conduct for diplomats whether a reply comes from Islamabad or not.

Says Pakistan Raising Kashmir Issue

BK1507040794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] India has reitereated its stand that it will abide by the code of conduct for diplomats. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, the foreign secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan, renewed India's offer to Pakistan for talks on implementing the diplomatic code of conduct. The foreign secretary, however, rejected the suggestion of a discussion with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and said the talks should be held between the Foreign offices of the two nations. Mr. Srinivasan said India will adhere to the code irrespective of a reply from Islamabad.

He accused Pakistan of trying to raise the Kashmir issue in the international forums. India will vigorously oppose this, if any attempt is made to raise the issue at the United Nations, he added.

Meanwhile, several volunteers of the Indian National Forum held a demonstration in front of the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi yesterday and lodged a protest over the attack on Mr. Chauhan, a diplomat in Pakistan. The demonstrators raised slogans against the illegal torture and unauthorized interrogation of the Indian diplomat in Islamabad last Monday.

Comments on Pakistan, PRC, SAARC Summit

BK1507101794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Jul 94

[Text] New Delhi says it is ready to have talks with Islamabad immediately on implementing the code of conduct for diplomats. The foreign secretary, Mr. K. Srinivasan, said India hopes that Islamabad's in-principle offer, as appearing in the Pakistani papers, will be converted into practice soon. He was responding to questions by newsmen in New Delhi on reports in the Pakistani press that Islamabad is prepared in principle for talks at the appropriate level on implementing the code of conduct.

Referring to the question of resuming foreign secretary-level talks, Mr. Srinivasan said Islamabad is putting unacceptable preconditions and it will be unrealistic to expect an early resumption of talks on bilateral issues. He said if Islamabad raises the Kashmir issue at the United Nations, India will face the challenge vigorously and forcefully and emerge victorious at the end.

The foreign secretary disclosed that India has received two more requests to participate in the UN peacekeeping operations. He said the working group set up on restructuring the UN system will continue its work for one more year and therefore the question of India becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council is unlikely to be resolved this year.

Referring to the India-China Joint Working Group meeting in Beijing last week, he said that India is for equal, mutual, and balanced security. New Delhi will not agree to any steps that do not contribute to this approach while deciding reduction of troops along the Line of Actual Control. He was optimistic that some positive results will emerge by next year. Replying to a question, he said Sikkim is also identified for the Line of Actual Control and by this it can be deduced that China recognizes Sikkim as part of the Indian union. He said that during the discussions in Beijing it was agreed that two more meeting points for military personnel will be opened to promote peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control.

On SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], Mr. Srinivasan said India has sought postponement of the eighth summit till April next year in view of the assembly elections later this year. He said the delay does not indicate any slackness in India's commitment to SAARC objectives.

On the river water dispute between India and Bangladesh, he said this should be resolved by adopting a give-and-take approach.

Minister on Renewable Energy Agreement With U.S.

BK1107130594 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 8 Jul 94 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, July 7—India and the US are likely to sign an agreement on cooperation in renewable energy during the visit of the US Energy Secretary, Ms. Hazel R. O'Leary, beginning on Friday [8 July], according to Mr. S. Krishna Kumar, Minister of State for Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

Mr. Kumar told newspersons here on Thursday that India would benefit immensely from such an agreement as the US had the latest technology in the field.

However, some Ministry officials expressed a note of caution on the signing of the pact. The agreement would come about only if the differences between the two countries on the intellectual property rights (IPR) issue was settled. they said.

But as the chances of the issue being settled soon appeared remote, they felt the agreement on renewable energy may be kept on hold for the time being.

Mr. Kumar said there were a number of Indo-US projects on renewable energy in the pipeline. Sea Solar Power Incorporated of the US was promoting the use of ocean thermal energy conversion technology and the first such 100 MW [megawatt] plant was proposed to be set up off the Tamil Nadu coast at a cost of Rs. [rupees] 750 crores. The entire finance would be brought in by the US firm.

While Sea Solar had signed a memorandum of understanding with the Tamil Nadu authorities in January this year, he said further discussions on the implementation of the project were likely to be held with Ms. O'Leary.

'Sources' Report Increased Supply of Arms to Kabul

BK1207103994 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 12 Jul 94 p 8

[Text] New Delhi (PPI)—India has stepped up supply of arms and ammunition, rations and fuel supply to Kabul, highly reliable sources confided to this agency here on Monday [11 July].

The frequency of the trips to Kabul by the Indian aircraft has greatly increased and at least two India aircraft landed in Kabul in the last week of June, the source said.

India has now openly started helping the Rabbani regime in Kabul in a bid to crush the rival Afghan groups, while carrying out a massive propaganda that Pakistan is backing Hekmatyar and arming his groups.

It was, further stated that the Indian intelligence agencies, too, had become very active and were busy in creating rifts among various Afghan groups to prolong the bloodletting in Afghanistan and to prevent the emergency of a strong Islamic government.

The Raw [Research and Analysis Wing]-Khad nexus, which was responsible for widespread acts of terrorism in Pakistan during the freedom struggle in Afghanistan, also had been re-activated, the source said.

According to well-informed circles in the Indian capital, the hijacking of children bus from Peshawar to Islamabad and later the attack on the Pakistan embassy in Kabul were the handiwork of these two agencies. The moves were intended to disturb ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the source said.

It may be recalled that a high-ranking Afghan military officer General Malik recently confirmed that Indian Air Force and army experts were training the Afghan forces and carrying out repairs of Russian-made aircraft held with Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, some well-informed diplomats disclosed here on Monday that the apparent major offensive launched by the pro-Rabbani forces in the last week of June, capturing Bala Hesar and Tappa Matanian, was in fact a facade.

In reality, the commanders holding the two vital positions were purchased by the Rabbani camp by dint of Moscow-printed money it holds in abundance.

These two positions were held by Dostam forces April 1992 and formed a buffer between the forces of Rabbani and Hekmatyar.

The Rabbani camp purchased the loyalties of the two militia commanders. But a spurious action involving some air raids and artillery barrages was undertaken against the two positions to cover up the clandestine deal. Small casualty figures in the action, which otherwise was projected as a fierce battle, lends credence to this belief.

"The timings of the operation, which was launched on the eve of expiry of the term of President Rabbani, was intended to give a clear message to the parties involved as well as interested observers that Rabbani was still very much in charge and could not be unseated very easily", said a western diplomat.

"So with a single operation, he had achieved two objectives and from this position of strength, he can now call shots for a ceasefire and the Herat conference which is ostensibly being called to decide the new leadership of Afghanistan, said the diplomat.

U.S., Russia Accused of Ignoring Afghan Problem

BK1407111994 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 12 Jul 94 p 13

[Article by Raskshat Puri in the "Midstream" column: "Asia's Forgotten Yugoslavia"]

[Text] The festering war in Afghanistan does not seem to touch the concerns and the conscience of either the Americans and Russians, who are both directly responsible for the situation that obtains there, or the Islamic countries which lose no opportunity to voice anxiety about Bosnia. Recently, the head of the UN High Commission for Refugees at Jalalabad Terry Pitzner, was quoted as saying that the war in Afghanistan "is a forgotten war. Casualties here are higher than in Bosnia but the world is not paying attention."

Last week, the UN decided to close its mission in Herat west of Kabul, and to evacuate all foreign personnel to neighbouring Iran. This decision was taken after jet attacks on the city by the forces of Uzbek warlord, 'Abdul Rashid Dostam, said to be based mainly in the northern provinces of Jowzjan Balkh and Fariab. Dostam has under his command a section of the Afghan air force. Part of the air force is with the Tajik faction of President Burhanuddin Rabbani who is supported by the forces oi Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Massoud, also a Tajik, who is said to control largely the Tajik-populated area of Afghan Badakshan, Takhal and Baghlan, all to the north-west of Kabul. Massoud was based in the Panjsher valley, in the Tajik area during his war against the Soviet supported regime of Najibullah Rabbani was due to resign in June and arrange a general election. He did not resign, pleading unsuitable conditions caused by Gulbuddir Hekrnatyar's continual war "with Pakistan's blessing."

The Pakhtun areas, including the road connecting Jalalabad with Kabul, are held by the forces of the Pakhtun warlord, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. He is the Prime Minister but has been in active opposition to Defence Minister Massoud ever since the compromise which gave him his present position in the "government". Hekmatyar has been supported traditionally by Pakistan, first by the Zia-ul- Haq regime and subsequently by Zia's successors. Zia-ul-Haq evidently had hegemonic designs on Afghanistan. Support for Hekmatyar was geared to this end.

The United States does not appear to have objected at any time to the hardly concealed designs of Zia-ul-Haq and the Inter-Services Intelligence of Pakistan. Indeed, reports in the American newspapers indicated that the Washington administration looked the other way when Hekmatyar, allegedly assisted by some senior Pakistani officers, indulged in narcotics smuggling, ostensibly to purchase arms. The narcotics network spread in South Asia. Now the underground narcotics trade is finding increasing markets in Europe and the USA. During the rebellion against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul in the 1980's US leaders also encouraged religious 'fundamentalism', cynically contradicting the known American position on this.

Even those non-European countries which were with the Americans in the 1980's Afghan rebellion are suffering the consequences. For example, Egypt and Algeria; also then neutral countries such as India: 'Mujahideen' mecenaries from Afghanistan cause problems. In Pakistan itself there has been religious trouble such as in the NWFP where some days ago a battle was reported between indigenous tribesmen who are Sunnis and an Arab section of the 'Mujahideen' who are Wahabis. 'Mujahideen' from Afghanistan are said to be fomenting trouble in Tajikistan, and the worried Russians, seen as successor to Soviet power and most of its responsibilities, are actively involved in the area. There are even attempts, reported from Moscow and Delhi, to involve the Indian government in talks for a settlement now going on in Dushanbe.

But the most unforgivable aspect of the prevailing situation in Afghanistan is the way in which the Americans and the Russians have dissociated themselves from a civil war they themselves fed and nourished. In the main, the Americans, who equipped, armed and encouraged the so-called 'Mujahideen'—the arms as well as the 'fundamentalism' are sprouting and intensifying all over South Asia. In Afghanistan itself, the communist-Islamic conflict has been replaced by a bloody ethnic-based power struggle where the toll is much heavier, and much less written about, than in Bosnia.

Before the war broke out in Afghanistan, in 1979, the population of Kabul, the capital, was about two million. At the end of 1993 it is estimated to have come down to less than 250,000. Indeed, the statistics quoted in newspaper reports provide a horrifying picture of the state of Afghanistan. Experts are said to reckon that over 1.5

million people have been killed since 1979, that at least 2.5 million poeple are refugees in their own country, and over three million are still living in Iran and Pakistan, over half a million people have been physically disabled by the war, a large number with wounds festering because there are no medical facilities; two small Red Cross hospitals are said to be all that there is in terms of medical aid, and these are helpless without supplies and equipment.

There is no water supply, no electricity, no school no industry, no farming, and hardly any fuel; available food is tending to become scarce; there is no government; since January this year over a thousand people have died, some 2,000 are said to be fleeing daily from the cities to the countryside and then across international borders since 1979 some four million children are said to have died of starvation; and a quarter of Afghanistan's women are said to have been widowed. Afghanistan had 15 million people before 1979.

Those who can, either fight under one of the warlords or take to looting and brigandage; those who cannot, either try to flee the country or resign themselves to bloody suffering, damage and possibly death. Nobody is clear about what the war is for and how it will end. Among the warlords there is an insatiable hunger for power. Some sinister designs seem still alive in sectors of the Pakistan regime. Rabbani's 'government' has accused Pakistan, which was a signatory to the Jalalabad and Islamabad compromise agreements, of supporting Hekmatyar's violation of them.

Practically rudderless, Afghanistan is drifting and nobody seems to know where it is going. Those who broke the rudder do not seem to care. Afghanistan is today the saddest instance of what can result from the cynical power-politics of the global powers. In the circumstances, can it remain one country, and are the power-players aware of the consequences for South Asia if it does not?

Assam Chief: Bangladesh, Pakistan Aid Terrorists

BK1107033494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, says terrorist outfits in the state are being helped by Bangladesh and Pakistan. Speaking at a function organized to felicitate him on completion of three years in office at Jorhat, Mr. Saikia said Pakistani Inter-service Intelligence—ISI—is operating through extremist elements in Assam. He said this has been revealed by ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] Vice Chairman Pradip Gogoi during interrogation. Referring to the tribal problem in the state, the chief minister said there is no alternative but to grant them autonomy to fulfill their aspirations.

Seven Policemen Killed in Assam Bomb Explosion

BK1407063294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] In Assam, at least seven police personnel, including an additional superintendent of police [SP] and a circle inspector, have been killed at Govardhana area of Barpeta District. According to official reports received in Guwahati, a team of police personnel led by the additional SP of Barpeta, Mr. H.T. Bohra, was returning last night from a raid when a bomb planted by unidentified militant exploded blowing their vehicle into pieces. Five persons were killed on the spot. The critically injured Mr. Bohra and the driver of the vehicle later succumbed to injuries in the hospital. Senior police officials with additional forces have rushed to the cite of incident and launched massive combing operations to nab the culprits.

Rao Addresses Rally To Mark Three Years in Power

BK1407100594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The Congress-I president and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, has reiterated his party's commitment to Nehruvian model of economy stressing the middle path. Addressing his party's rally from the ramparts of the Red Fort to mark the three years of his government in New Delhi today, he said his government will continue to promote the public sector. He said the rise in the prices of some essential commodities is due to the remunerative prices given to the farmers for their products. Congratulating the farmers for the successive bumper crops, Mr. Rao said his government's decision to give price support to the farmers has given them incentive to produce more. He said his government is committed to rural uplift and to this end the plan outlay have been raised twofold in the ongoing Eighth Plan. Stressing the need for checking rural migration, the prime minister said all basic facilities will have to be provided to villagers at their doorsteps. Mr. Rao also called for tuning up the administration and said his government does not want to interfere in the working of any state government. Outlining reduced social tension in the country since he took office in June 1991, the Congress-I president said this has helped the country to achieve overall economic development. Our correspondent from Red Fort adds that the rally is being attended by a huge congregation of people from all parts of the country and almost all chief ministers of Congress-I-ruled states, union ministers, pradesh [state] Congress-I chiefs, and senior party officials are among those attending the big rally. Decorated arches and cutouts of Mr. Rao and Rajiv Gandhi have been raised in important places in Delhi.

Further on Rao Address

BK1407165794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] The Congress-I president and the prime minister has reiterated his government's commitment to follow the Nehruvian economic model adhering to the middle path. Mr. Narasimha Rao asserted that the present policies only reflect continuity with change to usher in a speedy industrialization.

He was addressing a mammoth rally at the Red Fort ground in the capital today. The rally was held to felicitate Mr. Rao on his completion of three years in office. Mr. Rao reaffirmed his continued faith in the consensus approach to all issues. The Congress-I president came down heavily on the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the banned VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], making it clear that the government will never allow the trust floated by them to build the temple in Ayodhya. Expressing concern over attempts to communalize every issue, Mr. Narasimha Rao asked the BJP and the Muslim League to secularize themselves in the light of the recent Supreme Court judgment. The prime minister called for an end to confrontationist politics and exploitation of religion. He cautioned the people against the forces within and outside seeking to destabilize India. This threat, he said, can be met only with continued political stability.

Mr. Rao asked the people to (?reflect) about the future of the country in the coming one year for taking the right decision in the next general elections. In his 100-minute speech, Mr. Narasimha Rao dwelt on the achievements of his government and the issues before the nation. He also outlined how the government is striving to achieve a balance between the interests of consumers and the producers. Referring to the fertilizer issue, the prime minister said:

[Begin Rao recording in Hindi] And [word indistinct] fertilizer, if our peasant brethren say they should get a better price, but the price of fertilizer is the same as seven years ago, it is like [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Mr. Rao had a dig at the left parties and the Janata Dal for criticizing the policies of the Congress-I, even if their own governments in the states are following similar policies. The prime minister said his government is implementing Rajiv Gandhi's manifesto by speeding up the process to meet present day needs.

On minorities welfare, Mr. Rao said details of the proposed corporation for them will be announced within a month. He asked the state governments to promote all Indian languages, including Urdu and Hindi. Mr. Rao made it clear that the center cannot hold itself responsible for the shortcomings and failures of the states. The Congress-I president reiterated his commitment not to destabilize any opposition-ruled state governments.

Referring to various other issues, the prime minister said the private and public sectors have an equal role to play in the industrialization of the country.

Iran

Daily Denounces G-7 Statement on Terrorism

NC1407112794 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Domination Club"]

[Text] The leaders of world's top industrial countries ended the 20th round of their annual deliberations on international issues and economic crises on Sunday [10 July] by issuing a communique.

The Group-7 was born in response to specific economic problems of its member countries. But after the oil crisis of 1973 the group gradually exhibited more and more interest in political issues, and particularly after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, the G-7 has been much more seriously engaged in political issues.

Among the issues to which the G-7 has recently been directing its attention are world peace, human rights, and fighting international terrorism.

The G-7 has declared in its communique that Iran's approach to terrorism is counter to international efforts to achieve peace and stability, and has requested Iran to revise its policies in this connection.

The G-7's attitude towards Iran could be surveyed from two points of view. In the first place, G-7 has quite manifestly shifted the focus of its attention from the economic field to the political area, and it has been trying to use economics merely as a lever of power to intervene in political crises around the world, although this specific orientation is contrary to the weak economic position of a country like Russia which has joined the group recently.

G-7's declaration against Iran is the best proof that the group is not qualified to adopt stances on issues related to the general welfare of the world. The group's main objective is to gain domination on the entire world by active opposition to nations which differ from the seven industrialized countries in cultural and political areas.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is facing the G-7's double standards in connection with terrorism at a time when the Iranian public opinion is distressed over the Monafeqin [Hypocrites—word used to describe the Mojahedin-Khalq Organization] terrorist group's recent activities such as planting bombs in Mashhad which led to the martyrdom of a great number of innocent pilgrims, assassinating two Iranian Christian clerics, as well as other instances of planting bombs which were discovered and neutralized by the police.

Monafeqin's recent crimes were so horrible that even the Western countries which usually support the group and provide them with all kinds of facilities, have been condemning the terrorist group's activities. Among such denunciations was the statement of the British charge d'affaires in Tehran, who said: "The British government condemns the mean activities of the Monafeqin group in Mashhad, and will offer them no support".

The Westerners have quite obviously been caught in a web of contradictions. In their meeting in Naples they have been trying to coordinate their fights against Islamic fundamentalism, and they have apparently reached agreement on leveling fictitious charges of terrorism against Tehran as the Islamic metropolis.

* Article on U.S. Policies on Politics, Economy

94LA0204A Tehran SALAM in Persian 12 Jun 94 pp 12, 3

[Translation of article from January-February *Harvard Business Review* by Hossein Askari: "It's Time To Make Peace With Iran"]

[Text] The relationship between politics and the economy and culture is so clear that perhaps there is no need for proof. Recently, however, we see clear references to the relationship between commercial ties between Iran and America and political relations between the two countries in statements by some officials and in the press.

Of course, perhaps it is not without kindness that when SALAM discussed a list of Iran's commercial dealings with America according to Western sources in an article entitled "Report Without Analysis," that later the same people who are writing today to prove this "clear thing" accuse SALAM in their own internal bulletins of stirring up controversy and undermining the image of the Islamic government!

Having completed this brief introduction, we did not think it inappropriate to look at the thinking of the second side, meaning the Americans, concerning economic and political relations, or to put it in a better way, commercial and political relations. In the February 1994 *Harvard Business Review* an article appeared entitled: "It Is Time To Establish Relations With Iran." Its American author, following his trip to Tehran, discussed the problems with relations between the two countries and he made that the basis for advice to American officials about reviving relations with Iran.

Although the contents of this article cannot be considered to correspond exactly to the positions of the group governing America, just as the statements by some of our own officials and writers may not be considered the equivalent of the government's positions, they can be quite useful for analyzing the views of the other side. Some of the contents of the article are given below.

"Most important of all is the fact that the United States has done what it can do to punish Iran for this country's bad behavior, now and in the past.

"No one is allowed to import Iran's goods into this country without a special permit from the Treasury Department, and that is not easily granted. A limited number of these permits has been issued, especially with regard to oil, but since 100 percent of the purchase price must be deposited as a guarantee for possible claims against the Government of Iran, very few transactions of this kind take place. With the exception of food, agricultural machinery, and several other commercial items, America's exports to Iran need the issuance of a special permit from the Department of Commerce. The United States has said no kind of permit will be issued for special products such as computer networks and passenger aircraft, because of their possible application in military areas.

"Despite this, the truth is that barriers imposed by the United States have not been able to stop the development of trade between America and Iran, at least in one direction. Despite all these things, these embargos are one-sided. Despite the slogans, Iran has no barriers to trade with America.

"I believe that the resumption also shows the renewed emphasis on the 40 years of close commercial ties between the two countries. More important, I think this resumption can cut through our bilateral hostility. Iran's imports from the United States have increased from $140 million in 1980 to $822 million in 1992. This figure basically includes excavating and engineering equipment, chemicals, gas turbines, medical equipment and machinery parts. Coca-Cola has a concession for a beverage bottling company in Mashhad with a capacity of 10 million cases per year. Coca-Cola's plans also include the construction of another factory in Tehran. R.J. Reynolds has also licensed the manufacture of Winston cigarettes, under the name Bistun. Iran was Caterpillar's largest market in the year 1992, with sales exceeding $200 million. In 1991, General Electric sold hundreds of millions of dollars in power plant equipment to Iran. Last year, astonishingly, a subcontract was signed with the McDermott International Company of New Orleans to rebuild an oil platform destroyed by the U.S. Navy.

"Furthermore in 1992 Exxon, with the purchase of about 20 percent of Iran's exported oil, was this country's largest buyer of crude oil. Of course, this oil is not imported into the United States. It is either sold to other oil companies or refined in Exxon's refineries outside America.

"Of course, in view of America's harsh embargos against Iran, these figures may not seem significant, but they do not show the real volume of exports to Iran by American companies. Many American companies export their goods to Iran via their subsidiaries in other countries. Although from the legal perspective this may not please America, it is acceptable. Some American companies

also export their goods to Dubayy for sale to Iran from there. Many companies, fearing a reaction from their customers and even their stockholders, do not disclose their transactions with Iran. A more accurate figure for America's direct and indirect exports to Iran can be estimated at about $1.5 billion.

"However, although America may have a significant share of Iran's commercial import market, it does not have that much of a share of the contracts to rebuild the oil, gas and petrochemical industries and the related infrastructure.

"If the politicians were willing, Iran could create great opportunities for the participation of American companies, in terms among other things of trade, years of economic stagnation and eventually, even restored access to external financing.

"As an example, I will consider the situation at an American company, which is considered the largest in its field. I worked there. In 1990 the officials at this company concluded that Iran has the potential to become its largest Middle Eastern market. They considered the opportunity to be lucrative and hired an individual who had significant influence in Iran's trade and commerce environment as their consultant. They sent a team to visit Iran (American citizens can easily obtain visas).

"This team learned to its great happiness that Iranian officials welcome the participation and cooperation of American companies. The Iranians actually wanted them to bid on contracts exceeding $500 million. After further research and investigation, this company signed a very small contract—less than $10 million—in the belief that it would have definite future potential.

"This company's lack of interest in securing a larger contract was definitely a simple political and strategic calculation. In view of the state of relations between Iran and America, this company did not station any employees—especially American employees—in Iran. In view of the anti-Iranian climate, the financial procurement for a large project in Iran was not without difficulties. Despite this, the officials of the aforementioned company has positioned itself to work powerfully and swiftly on the project in question as relations between America and Iran improve.

Reconciliation

"Iran's negative image in the minds of ordinary Americans has meant that no government in America can have commercial and trade relations with this country until Iran takes the first step to improve relations.

"Contrary to the expectations of perhaps many Americans, Iranians believe that many conciliatory steps have been taken but all of them have been rejected.

"Unfortunately, if America realizes that even more than Iran needs it, America may need Iran, this matter may have undesirable effects for America. The peace process in the Middle East may be interrupted. The domestic problems and difficulties in Egypt may escalate. Iraq could emerge again as a menace to peace. A friendly government in the Persian Gulf could fall. Civil wars could engulf a former Soviet Republic or Russia itself. In any of these eventualities, Iran's good will and cooperation in the pursuit America's goals in the Middle East will play a very constructive role.

"I also believe that continued isolation of Iran and Iraq could drive these two former enemies towards political and economic cooperation. This is not as unlikely as it may seem. In my belief, and to some extent contrary to my expectations, the Iranians do not hate the Iraqis because most Iraqis, like the Iranians, are Shiites. The Iranians only hate Saddam Husayn and the Ba'th Party.

"Our urgent need for Iran's cooperation will become clear when a crisis starts in the Middle East or when one of its unstable regimes collapses. Of course, the list of regimes whose collapse is likely is in reality a gazetteer of the Middle East. At that time we will take steps to establish constructive relations by removing the existing differences and limitations between the two countries.

"One of our first steps will be to officially recognize Iran's legitimate interests, the continuation of its revolution, and the potential of its organizations, industries and people. The reality, however, is that if we take the aforementioned steps right now, we will benefit more.

"It will not be easy to improve relations between Iran and America, but it is possible. Above all it must be said that nothing will bring back the past and no one is going to undo what has been done in Iran. The essential reality in Iran since the revolution is that no power on earth will ever again be able to bring Iran under foreign domination. However, resuming relations, rebuilding trust and confidence and reestablishing bilateral commercial interests will benefit both countries. The world of politics and diplomacy is full of sudden changes. In this regard one may mention the change in our policy towards Russia, the PLO and Vietnam.

"Currently commercial relations are leading the way, and in the long term commercial and trade exchanges will strengthen relations. The first fateful step, however, must be taken by a government in America that takes a more pragmatic view of our national interests in the Middle East.

"Moreover, in view of the potential instability and unrest in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt, it is highly likely that Iran will become one of the few stable points in the entire Middle East. By continuing to insist on isolating Iran, we indulge a pointless vengefulness, endanger our geopolitical interests and we will lose great commercial and trade opportunities and possibilities, like the opportunities that exist in any developing nation."

Just as was seen, the Americans apparently also think in very crude ways. While they feel a need for political

relations with Iran, they have launched a trade embargo against Iran and they permit Iranian citizens to travel to their country with difficulty, while American citizens easily get visas to go to Iran and in short they regard trade relations as the way to open the door to political relations!

* Discussions With Deputies on U.S. Relations

94LA0205A Tehran SALAM in Persian 14 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] (News Service)—Today the discussion on trade relations between Iran and the United States, which began gradually over the past few years and in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] increased significantly, is being criticized and examined in the domestic political and press circles.

The Parliamentary Division, conducting interviews with several honorable deputies of the Majles, solicited their opinions on this matter, which follow as the first SALAM news report concerning trade relations with the United States.

'Ali Reza Sadra the deputy from Dezful and a member of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Majles said in this connection: In regards to economic issues and purchases from the United States, clearly we have a series of essential and fundamental needs related to industrial and technological matters which, in any case, can only be fulfilled through the United States. Certainly, whenever relations are based on imposition or humility, it compromises our independence and is unacceptable.

He added: The existing problem in our trade relations with the United States is the uncontrolled expansion of these relations and the import of unnecessary goods from that country.

In another part of his statements, Sadra said: The principle of procuring our needs from various parts throughout the world is an important issue to which we must pay attention. It is not desirable for us to concentrate our imports and the procurement of our needs from one country, even if that country is friendly.

Pointing out that the import of unnecessary and luxury goods from the United States harms the dignity of the revolution and the heroic and anti-oppression spirit of the people, he said: Unfortunately, as a deputy of the Majles, I see some goods enter the country that can by no means be justified.

He said: No one argues about providing for essential needs. But so many consumer imports, such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi-Cola, etc., even if the issue is concession, are produced under American licenses, and this will really destroy the heroic spirit of the people.

He said: Not destroying the heroic spirit of the people is something that the grand leader emphasized in a meeting with the Foreign Policy Committee, stating that we must be careful not to harm the heroic spirit of the people.

He said: Concerning the United States, while we need modern technology, on the other hand, they also need to sell the technology. Even more than we need to buy, they need to sell and need the market.

Considering that in any case we procure our needs through intermediaries, we must curb our actions to ensure that they do not become a tool against us.

He also said: We now have a large number of Iranian merchants in Europe and the United States and instead of American merchants being our intermediaries, Iranian merchants can be the intermediaries, so that if there is any profit, it will go into the pockets of our own merchants.

He added: It is necessary that we arrange to reduce our imports to the barest possible minimum by controlling the entry points and regulating customs tariffs in regards to countries such as the United States.

Hasan Kamran-Dastjerdi the deputy from Esfahan said in this connection: Essentially, trade relations with the United States in any form is not beneficial, because this is another kind of relationship, which if it gradually expands, will have corrupt results. And the reason is clear. It is because with the enemy today, cultural invasion occurs through its goods, from clothing fashions to consumer goods. We must show sensitivity to the entry of some unnecessary goods, such as soft drinks, cigarettes, chewing gum, etc.

He said: If we expand trade relations with the United States, it will be the cause of future problems. When something is no longer heinous and a justification is made for it, it will cause problems later.

Pointing out that the Zionists and Americans are domineering forces whose trade organizations and companies never have our interests at heart, he said: If they invest in a region under the cover of commercial work, in addition to political work they also engage in spying.

He added: If we have a void, we can fill it from other countries, even though some of these goods are not worthwhile for us to want to fill the void. On the whole, I must say that trade relations with the United States is not a proper thing.

Hasan Qashqavi the deputy from Shahriar and a member of the Majles Foreign Policy Committee also said in this connection: Some of our trade relations with the United States are unavoidable, because its industrial roads and main needs exist in Iran, and we are obliged to have them, and there may not be a replacement for some of these American goods. In this sector, I agree to some extent. But in other sectors, especially regarding services, consumer goods, and goods that we can procure from other countries, we must not import goods from the United States.

Pointing out that it is by no means in our interest, under the condition of severance of political relations, to have economic relations with the United States, he said:

Undoubtedly, by sending multinational companies to the Third World, the United States is preparing the ground for its presence and influence.

Hasan Mokhtari deputy from Najafabad, also said in this connection: Trade relations with the United States is not in our interest, because the regime of the Islamic Republic was founded on the blood of martyrs, and the United States is the one whose hands are stained to the elbows with the blood of our beloved ones. He said: Even if one day the United States shows us a green light, in my opinion, it is an expedient green light, and we must not be deceived by it. Unfortunately, some comfort-seeking individuals in the country think that one of our economic problems in the country is that we have no relations with the United States.

He said: We must know that the goal and intention of the United States in creating relations is its own best interests and to be able to sell some of its goods in other countries through creating relations. He said: At the present time, in our relations with other countries, we have no problems that would require us to establish relations with the United States. What we need we can import from other countries.

Zabihollah Karimi the deputy from Shushtar also said in regards to trade relations with the United States: When a country is colonialist by nature, naturally it bases its trade relations on its political goals.

He added: I believe that considering the emphasis of the Imam and our grand leader, we cannot have relations with the United States, because it is colonialist by nature. They do not want our economy to thrive at all.

He said: They base trade relations on their political goals. These goods that are now imported into the country, such as chewing gum, contain obscene pictures. Well, this is also economic invasion. In other words, they want to strike a blow against us using every means, and we must not be overly optimistic.

Pointing out that he thinks those who escalate this issue, that is, trade relations with the United States, are not aware of the depth of the issues, he said: We do not have the most trade relations with the United States. Of course, it is true that the goods that are imported into the country are mostly either made in the United States or in countries under its domination. But what I say is that we can prevent the entry of many unnecessary goods from the United States.

Daily: King Husayn Preparing Public for Compromise

LD1307135394 Tehran IRNA in English 1152 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA—The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' on Wednesday [13 July] said Jordan's King Husayn was now preparing the public opinion in his country for a compromise deal with the Zionist regime. In its political commentary, the daily said that the Jordanians have always observed two points in their political propagation: first, halting political propaganda against the Zionist regime and secondly making efforts to justify compromise with the Zionist regime, a compromise Jordanian officials believe can ensure the interests of the Jordanian people.

Despite having long a border with Israel in comparison to other Arab countries, Jordan has been kept off political crises in the Middle East, it said.

"Jordan's relatively passive diplomacy vis-a-vis regional political crises and refusal of the Jordanians to make any territorial claim on Israel despite the fact that a large part of Israeli-occupied lands belong to Jordan are among the reasons Jordan has been set aside from the Middle East political stage."

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI added that Jordan's refusal to dispatch forces to the Persian Gulf and the propaganda campaign launched by Jordanian mass media against the U.S.-led allied forces during their war on Iraq forced the west and even Amman's regional allies to become less friendly to that country. Jordan which lost such an important city as Bayt ol-Moqaddas [reference to Jerusalem] and vast parts of the West Bank to Israel during the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict, known as the 6-day war, has acted in such a way as not to be affected by regional crises, the commentary said.

The Jordanians now feel that they need to take a quick step to break their three-year-old isolation in the region and supersede other Arab governments in Jordan's neighborhood, the daily said, adding "undoubtedly such a move will be treason and Jordanian officials could not be proud of it."

Daily: 'Arafat's Return to Gaza, Jericho 'Folly'

NC1407110194 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (Weekly Edition) in English 7 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "V-for Victory?"]

[Text] Hurrah for Yasir 'Arafat! who returned last week to the Gaza-Jericho mini-state carved out of the occupied land to serve as an open jail for Palestinian aspirations.

His return, as Israel and the West watched in amusement, was marked by all those theatrics that have made Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] legend in his own lifetime. The V for victory sign plus the kissing of Palestinian soil, was splendidly caught up by the television cameras of the world media, and fed again and again to the Arabs and Palestinians in the hope of ensnaring the naive and the unsuspecting.

Mr. 'Arafat, who is a Muslim, even took great care not to hurt Jewish sentiments on Saturday as scheduled, by arriving a day earlier on Friday, the Muslim Sabbath.

All this makes out the ever-smiling 'Arafat a wonderful ex-terrorist to deal with for world leaders.

However, his much publicized return failed to make ripples in Palestinian revolutionary circles. On the contrary, it has strengthened suspicions, that Abu-'Ammar was in fact being groomed all these years, to serve Israeli interests in Palestine.

As observers point out, if 'Arafat was true to the Palestinian cause, he would never have compromised the liberation of Al-Quds Jerusalem for a tiny and insignificant piece of Palestinian soil. Moreover, they note that Mosad and its Western counterparts would have long ago removed him from the scene if his intentions were sincere.

Israeli leader Ari'el Sharon has rightly admitted the facts.

But his return has also removed the last fig leaf from the compromisers, and provided Palestinians both inside and outside the occupied land with fresh impetus to continue the intifadah against the Al-Quds occupying regime.

Al-Quds, the first Qibla of Muslims, is a purely Islamic issue, and the Ummah is determined to press ahead for its liberation.

'Arafat and his PLO, it seems, have taken a suicidal step to dampen the flame of Palestinian aspirations. To anyone well-versed in the history of Palestine and the nature of its Muslim people, Abu-'Ammar's latest folly could turn out to be the last nail in the compromisers' coffin.

Fahd Criticized for Lauding 'Arafat's Return to Gaza

NC1507102594 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jul 94 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Congratulations for Treason!"]

[Text] Saudi King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al'Aziz has congratulated 'Arafat for going to Gaza. This comes at a time when 12 Palestinian groups have issued statements condemning the visit and criticizing 'Arafat for having trampled on the rights and interests of the Palestinian nation, and when even the mayor of Gaza selected by the PLO, who is naturally a member of the pro-'Arafat forces, has admitted that " not even one in a thousand Palestinians accepts or is satisfied with the PLO-Israeli pact on Gaza and Jericho."

Gaza Mayor Mansur al-Shawwa has pointed out that Israel has received a new "Balfour Declaration," but this time it came from the PLO leadership and not the British foreign secretary. He has accused 'Arafat of appointing inefficient people to the self-rule government in Gaza and stressed that only Israel benefits from the Gaza-Jericho accord since Tel Aviv has always wanted to rid itself of the problems in Gaza.

Thus, King Fahd should be asked why he congratulated 'Arafat and his associates. All existing facts show that what has happened is a great act of treason against the Palestinian nation, that even 'Arafat and his associates have not benefited from their treachery, and that what they envisage is merely a "mirage of peace" and not a respectable peace.

Even 'Arafat and his associates bitterly realize today that they have been duped by Israel. Therefore, has the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques congratulated 'Arafat for being deceived by the Zionists?

What positive aspect is there to 'Arafat's return to Gaza amidst all the strict security measures stemming from 'Arafat's great fear of being the target of enraged and protesting Palestinians that makes Fahd deem it necessary to congratulate him?

The truth is that even 'Arafat and his associates are unhappy over their doings. Therefore, naturally the Saudi king's congratulations should be interpreted differently. Everything falls into place when it is viewed within the framework of Fahd's mission to push ahead the Arab-Israeli compromise deal. Fahd has congratulated 'Arafat on his arrival in Gaza because he has been assigned the duty of disguising 'Arafat's treason in every possible way and to portray it as a victory for the Palestinians. And Israel, too, has positively assessed 'Arafat's visit.

But this is not just a case of Fahd dancing to Israel's tune. Fahd previously expressed readiness to pay compensation for the crimes perpetrated by Israel in the al-Khalil [Hebron] massacre, even though by law it is the perpetrator who should make restitution. But in this incident too, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques—in a show of support for Israel—paid the compensation for the massacre of the Palestinians at the Abrahamite mosque of al-Khalil, thus encouraging Israel to perpetrate more crimes. We know how Rabin threatened the Palestinians that the al-Khalil tragedy would be repeated.

This generosity to Israel by the Al Sa'ud clan has now reached an irritating stage and has degraded it to the status of an "Israeli lackey." Recently the Saudi foreign minister has been trying—through repeated visits to Syria—to force even Damascus to accept a compromise with Israel. Some incoming reports indicate that Damascus has so far resisted Riyadh's efforts. But the Saudis have not yet given up their hopes and are increasing their efforts in a bid to successfully accomplish their mission.

Nevertheless, it is unlikely that the sharp-sighted Muslim people of the region, especially the Palestinians, will fail to notice everything that is going on and to clearly understand that Fahd's mission is to force the Arabs to kowtow to Israel.

The nations should be aware of the Al Sa'ud clan's mission to promote Israel's demands, so that mission can be disgracefully defeated. The Palestinian people are committed to this important task, and the strong and

unflinching stance by the 12 Palestinian groups against the treason of 'Arafat and his associates is actually a strong punch in the mouth for Israel's lackey as well.

Authorities Give Figures on Iraqi, Iranian PoWs

LD1307131994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] The official in charge of the PoW Commission announced that according to the latest figures and information there are more than 31,778 registered and unregistered Iranian prisoners in Iraqi prison camps. Addressing a news conference today, the official added: The Islamic Republic of Iran has in its possession documented evidence which includes 12,000 hours of audio tapes, 500 hours of video cassettes, and statements by former prisoners and other informed sources on the Iraqi camps.

Having rejected the Iraqi Government's false claims about the prisoners, the official in charge of the PoW Commission called on the International Red Cross to follow up this issue. He added: In the process of exchanging prisoners between Iran and Iraq, 39,043 Iranian prisoners returned home and in return 44,936 Iraqi prisoners were released. In addition to this figure, 11,055 prisoners and the bodies of Iraqi soldiers have been handed over to the Iraqi authorities since 1990.

He emphasized that out of 31,778 registered and unregistered Iranian prisoners in Iraq, a total of 16,000 are kept in secret camps in Iraq. He added: Around 10,000 Iraqi prisoners have taken refugee in Iran and the International Red Cross is aware of them.

The official in charge of the PoW Commission put the number of Iraqi prisoners registered in Iran at 1,722 and said that this figure has already been passed on to the International Red Cross.

Determination To Return POWs in Iraq Viewed

LD1407123894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0945 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to the latest figures and information the number of registered and unregistered Iranian POWs in Iraqi camps is more than 31,788. The official responsible for the POWs committee said yesterday: There is documented evidence on this, comprising 12,000 hours of [audio] cassettes and 500 hours of video tapes and statements made by POWs released from Iraqi camps and other informed sources.

The question of the exchange of POWs was raised after the cease-fire between Iran and Iraq in 1367 [corresponding to 1988-89], and with the assistance of International Red Cross it was agreed as a humanitarian gesture for POWs to be exchanged outside the framework of the talks, in a number of stages.

Iraq's lack of cooperation in not submitting a full list of Iranian POWs delayed for a long time the return of the dear and heroic captives, until in 1369 [corresponding to 1990-91], the first group of Iranian POWs arrived in the Islamic homeland.

Unfortunately, four years after the return of a large number of released POWs, another group of our dear ones are still in secret Iraqi camps, despite the existence of many resolutions. Last year, the Iraqi regime agreed to release Iranian POWs if the Iranian Government would release all Iraqi captives. In other words, Iraq's claim shows that it still holds a number of Iranian POW's, both those on the register submitted to the International Red Cross and those not on the list.

Although Iraq has so far refused to take any positive steps in the matter, the Islamic Republic of Iran will follow up the return of Iranian POWs through international organizations and through talks.

Use of 'Influence' After Yemeni War Urged

NC1407102794 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 9 Jul 94 p 2

[Editorial: "Is the Yemen Crisis Over?"]

[Text] After two months of civil war, Aden fell and its leaders took refuge in Oman. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih declared that the South Yemen revolt has ended and stated that no time should be wasted in rebuilding the war-damaged areas of Yemen.

In the last decade, the Persian Gulf region has sustained severe economic, military, and security damages as a result of two major wars. Regional leaders should have learned a lesson from Saddam's repeated and disastrous defeats, and realized that adventurism and aggression will bring nothing but useless bloodshed and destruction which this region can well do without.

The Middle East, thanks to its abundance of petroleum, has earned more dollars than any other Third World region. But, because of huge amounts wasted on the military, [it] remains one of the most backward areas of the globe.

The major portion of the Middle East's petrodollars were, and still are, spent on arms and local wars instigated by the big powers. The fire of the civil war in Yemen was ignited by the Southern Yemeni leaders and stocked by arms and money supplied by Saudi Arabia. Despite the end of this war, maintaining the peace remains a big question. The chances of the war flaring up again, at the instigation of the self-exiled Southern Yemeni leaders and tribal elders, are great.

Oman, which has given shelter and protection to the fleeing Southern Yemeni leaders, should not allow itself to be duped into becoming the Saudi's lackey, because experience has shown that the rulers of the House of Sa'ud are adept at creating crises indirectly and from

behind the scenes, particularly when it involves instigating tribal people who lack political sophistication. This method may sometimes pay off in the short term, but in the long run it is detrimental to the security and stability of the entire region and is a waste of the area's potentials.

Tehran, delighted that the Yemeni civil war has finally been concluded, should use its influence to ensure long term regional peace and stability. By the same token, the leaders in Sanaa should make sure that their country does not, once again, become the battleground for Saudi-Iraqi rivalries for regional supremacy, because Yemen cannot afford another civil war, and is in dire need of reconstruction rather than political and military conflicts. However, peaceful rebuilding of a country is always more difficult than the destructive process of war and bloodshed.

* Rafsanjani-Khamene'i Conflict, Resignation Rumors

94LA0202E London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jun 94 p 12

[Text] Even though it is customary for the leaders of the Islamic Republic not to mince words, sometimes noteworthy exceptions are evident. Perhaps the statements of Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his recent press conference can be considered among such exceptions, especially concerning the satellite dishes and his differences with Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic.

In response to a question concerning his differences with 'Ali Khamene'i, Rafsanjani said: "If we discuss an issue, our differences of opinion are resolved, and a number (perhaps 'numerous,' because 'number' here is meaningless—writer of the column) of opinions is natural."

Clearly, Rafsanjani does not deny his differences with the leader of the Islamic Republic, rather he considers them to be resolvable through discussion, of course, without mention of the kind of differences. A point that is no less important concerns the rumor of his resignation. In this regard, he said: "So far, it has not crossed my mind to resign or for anyone not to accept my resignation." Except for RESALAT newspaper, all other Tehran newspapers have omitted the second phrase, "or for anyone not to accept my resignation," although this is exactly the heart of the matter, since Rafsanjani wants to say that if he resigns he will not accept it [the post] again, even by the order of the religious guardian, who normally must be obeyed.

These phrases in the statements of Rafsanjani show that he did not want to place himself in a rank lower than Khamene'i. It is especially noteworthy that Qasem Sho'leh-Sa'di, the deputy of the Majles and a strong supporter of Rafsanjani, has recently said that in his opinion, Rafsanjani is the only person who can bring the storm-stricken ship of the Islamic Republic safely to shore.

In addition, Rafsanjani completely ignored the decree issued by Mohammad 'Ali Araki, who is accepted by all the leaders of the regime, including himself, as the source of emulation. Despite the decree that Araki has issued forbidding satellite programs, Rafsanjani has said that whenever he has the chance, he watches these programs. In other words, he says himself, "engage in a prohibited act." Second, he added that satellites are not illegal until the outcome of the bill that the government has presented to the Majles in this regard is clarified.

Larijani to Reporters: Avoid 'Particular Inclination'

LD1307104394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] A seminar of the Voice and Vision's news managers began in Tehran this morning with a speech by the head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRIB] Mr. ['Ali] Larijani.

In his speech Mr. Larijani stressed the need to reflect events which have a purely news aspect. He said: Preparation and broadcast of the news should be in line with the general requirements of the regime. When preparing a news report, the reporters should avoid submitting to any particular inclination and should bear in mind the expediency of the regime and the Islamic revolution.

The IRIB head also stressed the need to win the people's trust, neutralize propaganda of the [foreign] mass media and cultural onslaught of global arrogance against Islamic Iran, and strengthen national unity when reporting the news.

Also at this seminar, the political deputy head of the IRIB Mr. Mohammadi stressed the need for accurate and timely reporting of the country's events and for further strengthening of the people's trust and utilizing modern techniques in production and broadcasting of the news.

* Man Accused of Bombing in Mashhad Identified

94LA0202C London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Information of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced the name of the man who placed the bomb [in Mashhad] as Mehdi Mahvi. This ministry printed a picture of him in Tehran newspapers and asked the people to provide the ministry with any information about him. Also, telephone numbers have been given in the newspapers to offer information.

Yazdi Says Mashhad Bomb Strengthened People's Unity

LD1407123494 Tehran IRNA in English 1226 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA—The June 20 bomb blast in the holy shrine of Imam Reza (as) served to strengthen the unity of people and further disgrace the terrorist

Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) which planted the bomb, judiciary chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said here Thursday [14 July].

Meeting with families of the martyrs of the June 20 bomb blast, Ayatollah Yazdi said the MKO by committing such a crime not only violated the sanctity of the holiest islamic site in Iran but also grieved Muslim and even non-Muslim communities of the world.

The motive behind the bomb explosion and the murder of Christian clerics by the MKO was to sow discord among Iranian people and tarnish the national unity of the country, Yazdi said. The MKO members were seeking to create an atmosphere of terror and to sow discord among Shiite and Sunni Muslims and followers of other divine religions but by the grace of God and thanks to vigilance of security forces their plot was detected and neutralized on time, he said.

* Subsidies for Various Sectors Announced

94LA0204B Tehran SALAM in Persian 1 Jun 94 p 11

[Text] Tehran, 4 Khordad [24 May]—This year the government is giving more than 6,088 billion rials [R] in subsidies and direct welfare aid without repayment to various classes of people, and this figure is about 20 percent of the entire budget.

Iran's Plan and Budget organization reports that the amount of subsidies in the various sectors is as follows: The subsidy of R2,987.3 billion is given for basic goods, R665 billion to cover the difference in the foreign exchange rate and the cost of the foreign physician groups who come to Iran to treat patients, R522 billion for chemical fertilizers and pesticides, R398.5 billion for the Martyr Foundation, R228 billion to help the Komiteh-e Emdad-e Imam, R225.8 billion for aid to the Medical Organization, R174.4 billion for aid to the unemployed rural elderly, R121.6 billion for the difference in the student foreign exchange rate, R110.9 billion for the difference in the foreign exchange rate for medical equipment, R93 billion to help the Literacy Movement, R90 billion to help the Red Crescent Society, R87 billion for the difference in the labor base, R60.9 billion for aid to the press and the Book Exposition, R37.2 billion for medical treatment of vulnerable classes, R29 billion for free food for students, $26.1 billion [as published] for the difference in the foreign exchange for printing textbooks, R26.5 billion for the difference in the price of seed and the Agricultural Options Fund, R21.8 billion for aid to the Student Welfare Fund, R18.7 billion for aid to the regional water companies, R15.4 billion for aid to the Former Prisoners of War Affairs Staff, R14.5 billion for the Rural Social Security Organization, and R9.3 billion for support to prisoners.

Likewise, to procure the energy needed by the people, the industrial units and the nation's transportation network at low cost, this year the government is paying more than R20,682 billion in energy subsidies.

The public relations office of the Plan and Budget organization reports that government subsidies in the energy sector include:

- R4,570.4 billion in the electrical power sector
- R4,023.8 billion in the area of natural gas
- R2,317.2 billion for gasoline
- R2,994.1 billion for kerosene
- R5,206.9 billion for gasoil
- R1,236.5 billion for furnace oil
- R333.1 billion for other products.

* Article Examines Foreign Exchange Policies

94LA0203A Tehran SALAM in Persian 11, 12 Jun 94

[Unattributed two-part editorial]

[11 Jun p 2]

[Text]

Economic Note

The Condition of the Foreign Exchange Market

About two weeks prior to and following the rather serious decrease in the rate of the rial vis-a-vis foreign currency, the government announced new policies that to some extent mean more supervision and control of the government over the transfer and use of foreign currency and consequently imports. For this purpose, contrary to the past, once again foreign currency rationing, which is the necessity of a multirate foreign currency, was established. This is all while the economic officials in the past few years have been moving the economy towards a single foreign currency rate, and for quite some time. Now, suddenly three or rather four foreign currency rates have been established.

The basic question is, why is the foreign currency rate changing so rapidly? And also, why is there so much sensitivity to it? And why is there anxiety about foreign currency becoming more expensive? Finally, what must be done to prevent the increase in price?

1. When the rial and cash flow increase but purchasable goods do not increase, obviously, consumers are prepared to pay more rials to purchase a certain amount of goods and because foreign currency in some way plays a role with regard to goods, obviously with the increase in the cash flow, the price will remain the same only if the supply of foreign currency is increased at the same ratio. But in the past year, on the one hand, the cash flow increased and, on the other hand, not only was insufficient foreign currency made available to consumers, but also compared to 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991], 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], and even 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993], the amount even decreased. The reason is the due date of foreign debts and the lack of new credit offered to Iran by Western countries.

2. With the postponement of the payment of some of these debts last year and the announcement of new policies in Esfand 1372 [20 February-20 March 1993], the price of foreign currency was expected to become relatively stable. But a short time after the decrease, the price of foreign currency resumed its previous course and gradually began to increase. The reason was obvious. The Central Bank did not have the resources to offer sufficient foreign currency, especially since the share of foreign currency of government organizations had been practically determined in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] budget, and it was not possible to inject the necessary foreign currency into the open market. Nevertheless, the increase in the price of oil provided the hope that with the sale of foreign currency on the open market, on the one hand it would be able to control the price of foreign currency and on the other acquire large amounts of rials in order to make up for the budget deficit. For this purpose, contrary to the previous promise to maintain the 175-tuman dollar, two new rates appeared in the government foreign currency market. One was the so-called foreign currency rate of imports vis-a-vis exports, and the Central Bank accepted to offer every dollar at 5 tumans less than the open market rate and another was the sale of foreign currency through money changers at a rate closest to that of the open market. The major reason for the decrease in the price of foreign currency is considered to be related to the sale of $50-70 million in the course of two days by the Central Bank on the open market. Of course, the legal justification for such action, if true, is not clear to us.

3. On the other hand, the new foreign currency policies were also announced, and in order to show the seriousness of the action, the Information and Security organization was assigned to investigate the smuggling of foreign currency. All this occurred while up to last year the transfer of any amount of foreign currency abroad through the banking system was allowed, and some economic analysts believe that during that period, large amounts of foreign currency left the country.

The pivotal point of the new foreign exchange policy is to prohibit imports outside the banking system. The result of this policy is that imports will be quite controlled and reduced, because the bank does not have the resources to provide the needed foreign currency for every applicant, and hence, demand for foreign currency is decreased in the open market, causing the decline of its rate.

4. Despite these points, which were stated briefly, the price of foreign currency after a 25-percent decrease returned to its first place again, and these policies caused severe fluctuations of the foreign currency rate on the market. It is guessed that a particular group takes advantage of these fluctuations, which will be discussed later. Hence, the lack of clarity of the policies and also the spot activities (such as temporary supply of foreign currency into the open market) and psychological factors cause severe fluctuations in the rate of foreign currency. Unfortunately, contrary to what is said, that the increase in the price of foreign currency is influenced by psychological factors, it must be said that its decrease is also affected by this factor, because the effects of psychological factors are temporary and reversible. This issue is seen more in the decrease of the foreign currency rate, and it is not inappropriate to emphasize that the reliance of the officials of the Central Bank on this factor will have reverse results as well.

5. Even though the main reason for the increase in the foreign currency rate is the stability or decrease of its supply vis-a-vis the increase in cash flow, another important factor also plays a role.

Essentially, foreign currency is bought to buy goods or services from abroad, and for this reason if the government announces a policy that causes a decrease in the purchase of foreign goods, naturally demand for foreign currency will decrease and its price decline. But if the goal of purchasing foreign currency is not to procure foreign goods but rather merely to buy and possess foreign currency, the policies that restrict imports will not be able to decrease the value of foreign currency. Unfortunately, it must be said that due to high inflation and the failure of banks to pay appropriate interest to savings accounts, all those who have cash and cannot invest it prefer to change their rials into dollars in order to preserve their purchasing power. For this reason, the policies that restrict imports and also the transfer of foreign currency could not seriously have an effect on the price of foreign currency, and this is a great tragedy, that some of the citizens convert their savings to foreign currency, and contrary to what the new policy makers promised, that our national currency will be strengthened, it must be said that what they have done to the currency of the country has caused even Iranian savers to prefer foreign currency to the rial.

[12 Jun pp 2-3]

[Text] 6. The response to the question of why there is sensitivity to the foreign currency rate stems from the fact that the share of imports and exports in the Iranian economy is rather high, and any change in the foreign currency rate results in changes in the price of other goods, investments, the government budget, etc. Also, the general public thinks that inflation is directly related to the foreign currency rate, and as the foreign currency rate increases, inflation also increases, even though there is no connection between these two. But the foreign currency rate is only one factor influencing inflation, which will be discussed later (God willing).

If the goal of the new announced policies is to control the foreign currency rate to harness inflation, it must be said that this policy is practically useless. Suppose that the foreign currency rate is controlled and does not increase but even decreases, this will not have a very positive effect on inflation. Rather, it will even increase it, because decreasing and harnessing foreign currency prevents imports, and because many of the goods and even raw materials of factories are not imported, goods will decrease and prices will increase.

If the goal of the new policies to control foreign currency is to prevent its uncontrolled use or the exit of foreign currency from the country, it must be said that it can be useful, provided it is implemented fully and violations are also blocked. For example, until prior to these policies, the issue of free zones was a serious obstacle to the implementation of such decisions, and if again as in the past goods can be imported without opening credit through the free zones, obviously, the announced policies will not be beneficial.

Also, a change in policy and also contradictory policies must be seriously avoided. For example, while the economic officials emphasize policies that decrease the foreign currency rate, suddenly the Islamic Republic Airlines announces that the rate of exchange of foreign currency has changed from 1,750 rials [R] to R2,600, that is an increase of 50 percent.

7. Suppose that by limiting the use of foreign currency the government succeeds in decreasing its price, nevertheless, this limitation must not include the needs of factories, because in this case the same problem will occur that existed in the past, that is, the production of a large number of factories will decrease, even though this issue happened in 1371 and 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] to some extent, and the production of parts of the factories decreased compared to 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] and 1370. But it is possible that this production decrease will be escalated and result in more losses for the factories or the unemployment of workers.

Also, it must be noted that if the foreign currency rate is reduced and controlled, the export of nonpetroleum products will suffer stagnation.

8. Not only are such temporary policies and sudden fluctuations in the foreign currency rate not to the advantage of the economy, but also the profit is gained by a small group. Even though we have no decisive proof, it is probable that the decrease in the foreign currency rate, when the Central Bank injects foreign currency into the market, is the result of the agreement of a number of large moneychangers to purchase these large amounts of foreign currency from the bank, and once the injection of foreign currency by the bank stops, they return it to the previous rates and pocket huge profits. If what has been said is true and the Central Bank has put at least $50 million into the market and the average price of sale is 240 tumans, those who purchased it can now sell it at 280 tumans. In other words, in a short period of time they have made a profit of 2 billion tumans.

9. Even though the main duty of the press is not to offer solutions, and this requires vast information and numerous experts, if only not to have it said once again that the press only criticizes, we shall offer a few suggestions.

A. The most important issue in making any policy and decision is to have expert support. Unfortunately, as far as is known, the present changing economic policies lack such support and are not backed by the economic experts of the related organizations. And the reason is clear, because such decisions are not based on scientific and economic considerations but are the result of immediate issues, political pressures, and nonscientific interference. If these policies had scientific and expert support, there would be no need for only a very small number of people to speak in defense of these policies with various kinds of justification. Rather, experts and economists would personally with their articles and writings announce sufficient reasons for the correctness of these policies. In order to prove this claim, we say that we provide our resources to publish the articles of the experts of the Plan and Budget, the Central Bank, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, or any other source in defense of the current policies. Experts who naturally receive government salaries and whose directors can oblige them to write scientific and documented material on this issue and put it at the disposal of the people.

B. Because a major part of the demand for foreign currency is due to weakness of the rial, by increasing the interest of the banks, this power must be restored to the rial. Last year, the amount of inflation was about 30 percent, whereas maximum interest of the banks was 16.5 percent. In other words, every saver has suffered a loss. On the other hand, the value of the dollar vis-a-vis the rial during the same year has shown an increase of about 80 percent.

The reason for the low rate of interest in our banking system is due to the inefficiency of the banks. How is it that the banks take large amounts of money from the people without being able to give them at least the rate of inflation in interest? In other words, they should not allow the value of the money of the saver to decrease. If the economy is improving it means that every saver, not only at the end of the year, will be able to receive the principle of his savings (calculating the inflation) but must also receive a reasonable profit. And if this does not happen for the savers, it is due to the weakness of the banking system. Obviously, if this logical demand is implemented, people will naturally save their money in the banks, will have faith in the power of the rial to secure their rights, and will subsequently not be forced to change their rials into foreign currency to protect their purchasing power. Today, the main problem is the economy based on the dollar and the discredit of the domestic cash flow. And this problem cannot be solved with trade policies and restrictions. The power of the rial must primarily be increased through production and then secured with proper financial and monetary policies, including the rate of banking interest.

C. Another solution to control the rate of foreign currency is to harness cash flow. Even though the amount of increase in cash flow this year was set at 15 percent in the budget bill, and it is heard that the government is trying to oppose it, the increase in the price of oil at a rate higher than the budget bill will provide the possibility for the government to supply the market with some amount of foreign currency. But it seems that the injection of

foreign currency into the market will result in the exit of capital or in unnecessary imports. Hence, if the government wants, it can collect large amounts of rials by selling it [foreign currency] at the market price for necessary affairs, such as the needs of factories and similar cases. And, as the president announced in the beginning of 1372 [21 March 1993], by selling foreign currency at the market price, the cash flow can be collected, but this was not achieved in practice. This year, they should determine that the rials resulting from the sale of these foreign currencies be removed from the economy as a debt to the Central Bank. If only $1 billion is sold in this way, naturally about 250 billion tumans will be reduced from the volume of money and will have a positive effect on the rate of foreign currency and other economic areas.

D. Finally, and most important, stability is needed in policies and also investment security provided in order to provide sufficient motivation to attract capital toward production and also prevent the escape of capital.

If the present policies are such that they will truly provide security for investment and increase interest in the entry of capital, why do some people want to smuggle foreign currency abroad? Under the present conditions, not only will the establishment of committees to prevent the smuggling of foreign currency abroad not be effective, but also, more importantly, we must know why the owners of foreign currency are inclined to take their capital abroad.

* Malaria Threatens 12 Million People

94LA0202A London KEYHAN in Persian 30 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Malaria threatens 12 million people in Iran. SALAM newspaper, which reported this item quoting an "expert on infectious diseases," added: The greatest threat is to that part of the population in the country residing south of the Zagros Mountains in the coastal plains of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

According to the same expert, 1.8 million people are now suffering from malaria, and therefore the danger of transmission is critical.

Although the greatest danger lies in the areas mentioned, the provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran are by no means immune to this danger. One must keep in mind that malaria was eliminated in Iran prior to the revolution, but in the early years after the revolution, this disease gradually spread once again and has now reached a very dangerous phase.

Nepal

Communist Party Threatens 'Nationwide Agitation'

BK1407130494 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Kathmandu, July 14 (AFP) - The main opposition Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) Thursday [14 July] handed an ultimatum to King Birendra threatening nationwide agitation if the prime minister is not dismissed in five days.

Two NCP-UML senior leaders, Radha Krishna Mainali and Bharat Mohan Adhikari, handed the ultimatum to the king at the royal palace, a party source said. "If our demands of dismissal of caretaker government headed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and formation of an all-party government to run the mid-term polls, are not met within five days, we will launch a massive nationwide political agitation," the letter said.

Koirala resigned Sunday after he lost a parliamentary vote and advised the king to call mid-term polls for November. The king asked Koirala to stay on until the elections.

The communists have threatened a three-day general strike starting next week and have also called for massive flaming torch processions, a traditional form of protest here, in three cities in the Kathmandu valley Thursday—Patan, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu. The NCP-UML has also called an all-leftist party meeting for Friday to work out a joint strategy, the source added.

The ailing supreme leader of the Nepali Congress (NC), Ganesh Man Singh, who is being treated for cervical and neck injuries in a hospital, has issued a statement fully supporting the movement to be launched by the NCP-UML.

Singh reportedly told NCP-UML leader Man Mohan Adhikari on Wednesday that they should launch a massive movement to remove the minority government's prime minister and prevent democracy from being handed over to the king.

There has been a growing wave of discontent against the king since the polls decision which angered all major parties, party sources and witnesses said. There have been a number of major protests in various parts of the country against the monarch and prime minister. The main reason for the discontent was the decision to keep Koirala on, rather than form an all-party interim government as demanded by most parties.

The leftists allege the king's decision to dissolve the lower house was "unconstitutional."

Opposition Not To Boycott November Polls

BK1307134294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 13 Jul 94

[Text] Opposition leaders in Nepal say they will not boycott the midterm polls scheduled for 13 November. The general secretary of the main opposition Communist Party of Nepal, Mr. Madan Nepal, and the president of the Sadbhavana Party, Mr. Gajendra Narain Singh, said this in Kathmandu today. Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala has meanwhile called upon leaders

of all political parties to come forward for a dialogue for the smooth conduct of free and fair elections in the country.

Opposition Holds Protest Demonstration

BK1307015494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Jul 94

[Text] In Nepal, almost the entire opposition has rejected the holding of midterm elections under the caretaker government of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. A protest demonstration was held in Kathmandu this evening demanding the dismissal of the Koirala ministry and immediate installation of an all-party government.

AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent, Ratan Salve, reports that all opposition parties have decided to launch nationwide protest demonstrations in support of their demand. As reported, the Nepal Parliament has been dissolved and midterm elections are to be held on the 13th of November.

Pakistan

Religious, Government Leaders Discuss Blasphemy Law

BK1107102794 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 11 Jul 94 p 12

[Report by Mazbar Zaidi]

[Text] Islamabad: Extensive meetings were held here Sunday [10 July] between senior government officials and the country's top religious leaders to discuss the situation arising out of reports that the government is contemplating an amendment in the anti-blasphemy law. The govt-team included law minister Iqbal Haider and interior minister Naseerullah Bahar.

The government is believed to have told the religious leaders that there was absolutely no move to mellow down the law which provides death sentence to those who indulge in writings and utterances blasphemic to the Holy Prophet (peace be upon him).

It successfully challenged the veracity of reports about the amendment in the relevant law and managed to persuade various religious leaders to make public statements to satisfy the people.

Azam Tariq, leader of Anjuman-e Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, also held an important meeting with some top government officials in the Capital.

Some religious leaders have issued an edict for the killing of population minister J. Salik and human rights activist of Lahore Asma Jehangir.

Cabinet Rules Out Amendment to Blasphemy Law

BK1207025894 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Excerpt] There will be no amendment in the Blasphemy Act [providing the death penalty for blasphemy against the Prophet Mohammad]. This was approved by the Federal Cabinet which met in Islamabad today. The meeting, which was chaired by the prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, reviewed in detail the situation arising out of the report published in the press about the alleged amendment in the Blasphemy Act. During the meeting the prime minister categorically stated that the Blasphemy Act is neither being amended, nor the punishment under this act is being reduced or changed. The government even cannot think of making a change in the punishment. The cabinet decided to initiate an enquiry, which triggered this controversy in the press. FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] will conduct the enquiry.

The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal, briefed the newsmen about the decisions of the cabinet. He said the federal law minister, Syed Iqbal Haider, has never given any statement about the amendment in the Blasphemy Act. The issue, he said, is being whipped up by the leader of the opposition, Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, to achieve his ulterior motives. [passage omitted]

Government Affirms Commitment to Blasphemy Law

LD1107203794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 1600 GMT 11 Jul 94

[Text] The federal cabinet has reiterated the government's firm position that there is no proposal to amend, in any form, the existing blasphemy law. At its meeting today in Islamabad with the prime minister, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, in the chair, the cabinet noted that the law minister has already categorically stated that he did not make any statement to this effect.

Briefing newsmen about the decisions of the cabinet, the minister for information and broadcasting, Mr Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharral, said the prime minister directed an immediate inquiry by (?FIA) in order to find who was responsible for (?whipping) up this controversy in newspaper columns. The minister said the cabinet also noted that the opposition leader Mr Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, after his failure to raise any issue, is bent on turning non-issues into issues without any justification.

Replying to a question, the information minister stated unequivocally that the policy and devotion of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government towards Islam is very clear and it goes to the credit of the first PPP government to declare [word indistinct] as non-Muslims in 1974. He said emphatically that no one should harbor any doubt and suspicion about the commitment of the present government to Islam.

Law Minister: 'No Proposal' To Weaken Blasphemy Law

BK1107093694 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 11 Jul 94 pp 1, 11

[Text] Islamabad (APP)—There was no proposal under consideration of the government to reduce the punishment of the blasphemy crime, said Law Minister Iqbal Haider on Sunday [10 July].

"We are only working on improving the procedure of the blasphemy cases to make it foolproof", he said while addressing a Press conference. "There will not be any change in basic concept and idea of the law of blasphemy."

He said the improvement in the method of registration of FIR [first information report] and processing of a blasphemy case were meant to discourage false accusations against an innocent. The Cabinet approved the suggestion in April, he said. He said the legislators from religious parties and minorities, when their opinion was sought, supported the proposal.

Iqbal Haider said the change in procedure of filing a case would check the instances of exploiting the provision to settle personal scores. He said the change would give a protection to the innocent. "We will never repeal Article 295-C", he said. He acknowledged some international human right organisations and foreign NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] were pressurising the government to repeal the blasphemy law. He said these organisations had been told that the law would not be changed.

He said such blasphemy laws existed even in the statutes and books of UK, USA, Germany, Italy and other countries. Denying a news statement attributed to him by a news agency (not APP) on the issue of blasphemy law when he was accompanying the Prime Minister on her visit to Ireland, Iqbal Haider said he neither issued any statement nor talked to any journalist on the issue.

"Except an APP (Associated Press of Pakistan) correspondent, who was officially covering the visit, he did not talk on anybody", he said. He said he had not granted any interview to any other news agency or some Irish daily.

The news agency had quoted an interview of Haider from the IRISH TIMES saying that the blasphemy law would be repealed to relent the punishment.

He said whatever had been attributed to him on the reduction of the punishment of blasphemy crime, which was death penalty, by a news agency or anybody else was wrong and fabricated. "Such statements have nothing to do with me", he said. "It is really shocking for me, and condemnable."

He said, "the personality of Holy Prophet (Peace Be Upon Him) is as respectable to him as to anyone else". He said to issue a religious decree against him on the basis of such a fabricated statement was "undemocratic, irreligious and immoral."

The Law Minister said it was the opposition which was exploiting the issue to gain political mileage out of the whole episode. He said the opposition was aiming at exploiting people's sentiments to score points against the government. He said there was no rationality behind the protest rallies being backed by the opposition against the government on the blasphemy law issue.

Later in an informal chat with newsmen, Iqbal Haider observed that there was no threat to his life after the decree of his murder under baseless charges of blasphemy. He said the authenticity of the news about the issuance of the decree is yet to be confirmed. Responding to a question, he said he has received a number of calls from Ulema, who have condemned the propaganda against him adding they are aware that the allegations are false. Iqbal Haider said no one has threatened on phone to kill him.

He said the Leader of the Opposition's conspiracy to malign him has fizzled out. Answering another question, he said there is no threat to his ministry. He said he has informed the Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto that the allegations against him are baseless and that he had not said anything about blasphemy law during his stay in Dublin.

Editorial Urges End to Row Over Law Minister Remarks

BK1107134094 Lahore JANG in Urdu 11 Jul 94 p 3

[Editorial: "The Punjab Governor's Warning—Talks Should Be Held With Religious Scholars"]

[Text] Punjab Governor Chaudhary Altaf Hussain has said that there is no justification for protest demonstrations after the government clarification on the punishment for blaspheming the prophet. The people who are observing strikes and taking out processions even after this clarification are doing nothing but playing politics. The government has so far acted with leniency, but the situation has now reached a point when a decision needs to be made on whether the misguided people should be allowed to create trouble or if the government should act.

Federal Law Minister Syed Iqbal Haider has refuted the statement attributed to him regarding a change in the blasphemy law. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has also denied any such decision. Moreover, she has appointed a senior diplomat in the United Kingdom to investigate the matter, who will soon submit his report to the prime minister. Therefore, there is no justification for continuing the antigovernment strikes and protest demonstrations. As the government has refuted the report, a number of prominent religious scholars have also termed as unjustified the demonstrations and strikes that are affecting the general law and order and people's daily life. We understand that the religious scholars and the

opposition parties should coolly think over it and suspend the protest demonstrations and strikes until the government's investigation report is published. The government should also try to convince the opposition leaders and religious scholars through direct talks and take all religious circles and the opposition into its confidence about the reported changes in the blasphemy act that the government might be contemplating.

Editorial Views Protests Over Blasphemy Law

BK1107100194 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 11 Jul 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Agitation against what?"]

[Text] Economic life in several cities and towns in Punjab has remained disrupted for the past few days because of continuing demonstrations by religions leaders and their supporters. For instance, on Saturday [9 July] most commercial activities had to be suspended in Sialkot, Multan, Vehari and other areas because of the presence of intimidating demonstrators on roads and streets. Lahore, too, has been reporting, at best, a spasmodic functioning of commercial and business houses. Evidently the stoppage of work is not in anybody's interest, but the attitude of strikers does not indicate a rational assessment of the crisis. The religious leaders say they would not relent unless there is a categorical assurance from the prime minister herself that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] government is not contemplating a change in the country's controversial blasphemy laws. As we know that a statement by Mr Iqbal Haider, the federal law minister, hinting at a possible change in blasphemy laws has caused a groundswell of protests and agitation in the country. The minister has recanted his words despite obvious pains: and the government has stated, time and again, that it does not envisage tinkering with the laws. Things do not look like simmering down as the 16 religious parties in their meeting in Lahore have vowed to continue exerting pressure on the government until it capitulates ignominiously. This is apparently stretching the matter to a bizarre degree. It is bound to give rise to an equally inflexible posture on the other side. The Punjab governor, known for his qualities of calling a spade a spade, has said that from now onwards the government would treat all attempts at disrupting peace and tranquillity with a severity hitherto not experienced by its opponents. One could fault him for displaying lack of tact, particularly when it involves such redoubtable community as the clergy, but the fact remains that if you continue yielding ground, it encourages the opposing party to make still more tougher demands.

As we said elsewhere that no self-respecting government can afford to capitulate in front of impossible demands, whether it involves the business community or other powerful lobbies. Having said this, it is also important that the government exhaust all avenues of negotiation before it opts for a maximalist stance. The decision to enforce some kind of discipline on mosque loudspeakers was long overdue; but it was enforced without preparing the ground. All local administrations should have taken religious leaders in confidence along with measures for creating a positive public opinion before embarking on this path. As it is, the government is in a tight spot on both these counts. A dialogue with religious leaders might produce a thaw. However, extreme care would have to be exercised with a view to preventing an excessively vocal minority from setting the agenda for the majority of people.

Sri Lanka

President Expresses 'Grave Concern' Over Violence

BK1407122994 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] President D.B. Wijetunga has in a statement expressed grave concern regarding the eruption of post-nomination violence. He has noted with regret that there has been over 60 incidents reported to the police so far. Over 15 persons have been injured and two deaths have been reported while 10 are critically injured. As peace-loving citizens, the president was confident that the public will accept that these acts of violence are not only totally undemocratic but also completely unwarranted. He said that the country cannot sustain any further loss of life and property. If such violence is perpetrated Sri Lanka will lose its reputation as a peace-loving nation, affecting the progress in the country in the fields of sustainable economic development. The president has reiterated that this type of violence cannot provide a climate conducive to the conducting of a free and fair elections. He has appealed to all candidates contesting the general elections and their supporters to refrain from any provocative acts which would contribute to the destabilizing of the electoral process.

The president further stated that he has given a specific directive to the police that stern action must be taken to prevent any recurrence of violence. The law must be strictly enforced, impartially and without regard to other considerations. The police and other law enforcement authorities have been given strict instructions to act impartially and to enforce these laws without fear or favor. He has urged everyone to cooperate with the police and the commissioner of elections to ensure that free and fair elections are conducted in a peaceful atmosphere.

Opposition SLFP Will Not Run in Election in North

BK0707145094 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 1 Jul 94 p 1

[Text] The SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] will not contest in the Northern Province for the August 16 general elections, said a member of the SLFP nomination board.

He said the board has already decided on the SLFP candidates, but party leader Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike will herself go through the list of candidates before she approves it.

Ceylon Workers Congress Makes Pact With UNP

BK0707151694 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 30 Jun 94 p 1

[Text] Agreement was reached yesterday between CWC [Ceylon Workers Congress] Leader S. Thondaman and the UNP [United National Party] that the CWC will contest the forthcoming general election on the UNP ticket and under its elephant symbol, authoritative political sources said yesterday.

Mr. Thondaman himself will be on the UNP national list, these sources said.

This agreement was reached, the sources said, at talks that began in parliament on Friday [24 June], the day the dissolution was proclaimed, between Mr. Thondaman and Mr. K.N. Choksy, Minister of State and Constitutional Affairs.

Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, Minister of Higher Education and National Reconciliation later joined these discussions.

Mr. Thondaman told the UNP representatives that the national executive committee of the CWC was due to meet on Monday and any firm agreement must follow that meeting.

After yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting, discussions resumed between Mr. Thondaman on behalf of the CWC, and President Wijetunga, Mr. Choksy, Mr. Anura Bandaranaike and Mr. Gamini Dissanayake on behalf of the UNP.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe could not be present at these talks, as he had a prior commitment to sign a wedding register after the cabinet meeting.

Well informed sources said Mr. Thondaman was keen on running in one hill country district and in Colombo, under the CWC's own colours, but was persuaded that the CWC, as previously, should run on the UNP list. [sentence as published]

The CWC and the UNP nomination board will discuss the candidates the CWC will run on the UNP lists in the different districts, the sources said.

Mr. Thondaman had taken a firm stand that Mr. M.S. Sellasamy, who had been recently expelled from the CWC, should not be accommodated in any way by the UNP.

This question eventually did not arise, as Mr. Sellasamy decided to contest under the colours of the CWC.

The UNP nomination board met yesterday.

Democratic Front To Support UNP in Elections

BK0707144594 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 27 Jun 94 pp 1, 16

[Article by Mahinda Kulatunge]

[Text] The DUNF [Democratic United National Front] will support the UNP [United National Party] in the forthcoming general elections and contest the elections together with the DUNF [as published], according to a decision of the DUNF Executive Committee, Mr. G.M. Premachandra, DUNF leader and NWP [North-Western Province] chief minister, said yesterday.

Mr. Premachandra told a news conference at the party head office in Kollupitiya yesterday that they joined the People's Alliance [PA] to contest the Provincial Council elections in the North-Western, Western and Southern Province following discussions they had with Mrs. Sirima Bandaranaike and other leaders of the allied parties. They never had any discussions with Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga, he said.

At that time they had no problems with the PA. Disruption in the southern provincial council was caused by a member of the PA itself.

Seventeen members of their party voted for Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga to elect her as chief minister of the Western Province. But soon after she refused to accept their party in preference to Mrs. Srimani Athulathmudali. [sentence as published] Chandrika also continued her attempts to sabotage our party.

"We decided to remove Ediriweera Premaratne and Chandrika decided to remove Premaratne Gunasekera. She did not consult the PA leaders before taking that decision. I discussed the matter with D.M. Jayaratne, Dharmasiri Senanayake and the national organiser Anuruddha Ratwatte who admitted that Chandrika was at fault but they were helpless to bring about redress".

Some of the constituents of the PA were in disarray since a leader had emerged who was overriding the alliance agreement. In that context it was perilous to remain in the PA", [no beginning quote marks as published] he said.

He said that at the instance of Mrs. Srimani Athulathmudali there were moves by the PA to appoint nominees under the name of their party for the general elections which had compelled them to take a decision to safeguard the identity of their party and contest the elections together with the UNP.

"The only plausible alternative we now have is to join the UNP which is prepared to welcome us. President D. B. Wijetunga is making a determined effort to unite the UNP dissidents and make them rejoin the party".

"At the last election the UNP polled 29 lakhs of votes while the PA polled 21 lakhs and the DUNF nearly a

million. Political observers forecast that the UNP will poll 35 lakhs of votes this time together with the DUNF vote.

"We are confident that the DUNF supporters will work for the UNP victory. The PA is plagued by hatred and jealousy today. All its constituent parties have to bow down to the dictatorial decisions of its arrogant leader", Mr. Premachandra said.

Mr. Premachandra said they had also decided to remove the eight members who helped Chandrika to remove Mr. Premaratne Gunasekera from his ministerial post. They are Messrs Lakshman Abeygunaratne, Ranjan Goonaratne, Percy Gunatilleke, Susantha Siriratne, Nandana Mendis, Cecil Kulatunga, Edward Gunasekera and Anil Kumara Wijesinghe.

Premadasa's Widow, Son Reject UNP Nominations

BK0407072894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 4 Jul 94

[Text] Colombo, July 4 (AFP)—The widow of Sri Lanka's assassinated president Ranasinghe Premadasa and her son said Monday [11 July] they will not stand as ruling party candidates in August general elections.

Hema Premadasa and her son Sajith said this was because of President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga's refusal to reopen investigations into Premadasa's 1993 May Day murder.

"We have always been United National Party [UNP] members. But my husband's own party is refusing to appoint an independent commission to investigate his killing. It is a matter of principle," Hema Premadasa said.

Nominations for the elections opened Monday and Premadasa said she and her son would remain neutral.

Sajith, who was appointed to the UNP's policy-making Working Committee last month, said he was resigning his party post and was declining UNP nominations to stand in the southern Hambantota district.

"The government's refusal to investigate not only raises eyebrows but also creates suspicions.... I will not contest under the UNP banner. Not over my father's dead body," he told AFP.

He said he had accepted Wijetunga's invitation to join the ruling party Working Committee in the belief that he could persuade the leadership to agree to an independent public inquiry into his father's death, but he had failed.

President Wijetunga's UNP which faces a tough challenge from a combined opposition has been banking on the Premadasa family to attract a sympathy vote.

The UNP's general secretary Gamini Wijesekera said last month he saw no reason to object to a fresh probe but a few days later the party ruled otherwise.

President Wijetunga dissolved parliament six months early to clear the way for a snap poll on August 16.

Tigers Announce Boycott of Polls, Peace Talks

BK1407085394 Hong Kong AFP in English 0639 GMT 14 Jul 94

[Text] Colombo, July 14 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas have decided to boycott next month's general elections and ruled out peace talks before a new administration is set up in Colombo, the state-run Daily News said Thursday [14 July].

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) are not interested in elections since the group is already in control of the minority Tamil-dominated northern Jaffna peninsula, the newspaper quoted LTTE ideologue Anton Balasingham as saying.

"We are not prepared to be fooled or deceived. We don't believe in warming the seats of parliament and therefore we shall not take part in the general elections," Balasingham told a recent meeting in Jaffna.

The LTTE, which is fighting for a separate state called Eelam in the northeast, virtually runs a parallel administration in the Jaffna peninsula where security forces have been confined to a few camps along the coast.

"We have no necessity to go to Colombo to administer Jaffna.... We have laid the foundation for an independent Eelam and have strengthened our position," Balasingham told the meeting held to commemorate a dead rebel.

Due to the LTTE's dominance over large swathes of the north, voting in the August 16 elections will be confined to the pockets of territory under government control.

Balloting in Jaffna is almost certain to be restricted to a string of islets where about 7,000 voters live under military protection, whereas nearly half a million Tamils in LTTE-dominated areas will not be able to vote.

An opposition Tamil party, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) which also opposes the LTTE asked elections commissioner Chandrananda de Silva to put off the election in the embattled Jaffna district.

Another moderate Tamil group, the Tamil United Liberation Front has already petitioned court seeking the cancellation of the election in Jaffna, arguing that a majority of Tamils there would be denied the opportunity to vote.

LTTE ideologue Balasingam said they had not closed the door to peace talks but would wait until after the general election, and the presidential election due in November, to start negotiations.

"After the general elections, there may be a party with progressive ideas coming to power. That party may call

for a ceasefire and initiate talks with us. If that happens, we will have talks with that party," Balasingham said.

The opposition People's Alliance poses a major challenge to the ruling United National Party at the August polls.

Altogether there are 1,440 candidates from 13 parties and 26 independent groups vying for 225 seats.

Balasingham accused the present government of not showing any interest in peace talks and warned that the party which comes to power would be committing a "Himalayan folly" if it pursued a military solution to the ethnic conflict.

Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils allege discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, and the LTTE has promised to champion their community's rights by leading the separatist campaign.